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Graduate Case Study

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Associate Profile: Abhey Gupta

Name: Abhey Gupta
Qualifications: MPhil Structures and Materials, MTech Civil Engineering
Current Role: Project Manager
Location: Toomebridge, Co Antrim

“I have been able to make a real difference to the strategic growth of the company and develop my skills and abilities at the same time.”

IN MY KTP I...

My KTP with Macrete Ireland Ltd and Queen's University Belfast was to develop an innovative and highly sustainable, flexible modular concrete block arch system for the widening, strengthening or replacing of arch bridges with spans from three to fifteen metres. I was responsible for managing the whole project, from sourcing appropriate materials, testing at the university, quality management, investigation of commercial feasibility, manufacture and construction of a trial arch and cost analysis, through to stability testing during backfilling and load tests. The new system, FlexiArch, offers a cost-effective, highly durable solution and provides Macrete with a major advantage in the bridge market.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT WERE...

The project has given the company an entirely new product and the ability to increase turnover, profit and its client base – not only in the UK and Europe, but also within the global marketplace. The FlexiArch bridge has enhanced the company's image, portraying innovation as a key factor in its success. I streamlined and improved the QA system that helped to improve customer confidence. The project also gave me the opportunity to propose further new products and materials for the company.

THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A KTP ASSOCIATE IS...

KTP provides a stepping stone from university into your chosen career. The unique partnership benefits the Associate, the company and the university. I have been able to present technical papers on the arch bridge system at various national and international conferences, for example, the IABSE Conference 2007, Budapest, and the International Conference on Structural Faults and Repairs 2007, Edinburgh. I was able to attend training courses that were crucial to the project. The KTP and qualifications I achieved helped me to secure a job within the company.

FROM KTP I HAVE LEARNT...

The training budget has allowed me to attend courses and training that I wouldn't get in a normal role, while gaining practical experience on the job. KTP modules have taught me that people and resource management is key to the success of projects. I attended a course in Computer Aided Design to help produce drawings for civil structures and the use of ARCHIE software for structural analysis of arch bridges. I have also been trained by BSI in ISO9001 Quality Management to Quality Auditor level and am working towards Chartered Civil Engineer status.

LIFE AFTER KTP IS...

I am now a Project Manager at Macrete, responsible for its FlexiArch system, quality management, the manufacture of pre-cast concrete and new R&D projects. Due to the success of my project, Macrete has a new KTP underway and is applying for another. My role will include supervising Associates during their projects.

I WILL RECOMMEND KTP BECAUSE...

KTP has really helped my professional development and has provided leverage to my abilities as an engineer. Through the training and practical experience provided, I have gained new management, negotiation and leadership skills which have greatly increased my confidence. KTP has really enhanced my career development and has provided opportunities that I wouldn't get in a normal graduate role.

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