

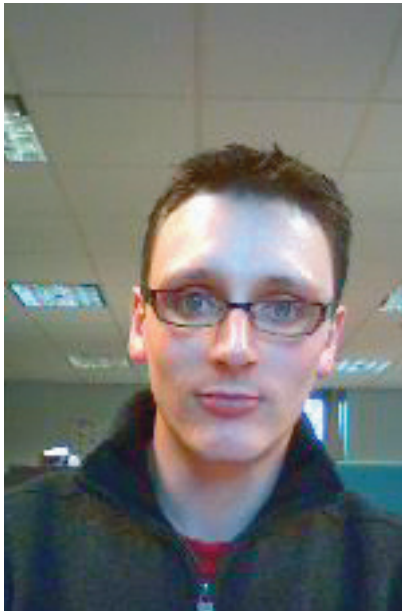
Knowledge
Transfer
Partnerships

Graduate Case Study

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Associate Profile: David Hammond



Name: David Hammond
Qualifications: BSc Applied Geography, MSc Applied Meteorology/Climatology
Current Role: Studying for PhD, University of Birmingham
Location: Nuneaton

IN MY KTP I...

My three-year KTP project with Campbell Scientific Ltd and the University of Birmingham aimed to design and build an advanced road surface sensor system for predicting weather conditions likely to affect the safety of public transport. The remote sensor gives an accurate reading of the road temperatures, which informs county councils and the highways agencies whether road gritting is necessary. My background is in meteorology, the university has over 30 years experience in road weather conditions and the company manufactures weather sensors, so it was about bringing together all these skills and experiences to develop an innovative new product.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT...

I was responsible for the complete project management of the product – from initial concept research right through to launch – which was a great experience. The product was a success, and the company is beginning to sell it on a commercial basis, so it's an achievement knowing I had a hand in making that happen. Through the KTP I was also able to write an academic paper, which was published.

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

For me, the benefit was working in industry. The whole experience of being based in a company, being responsible for driving the project forward and being tasked with delivery was great. I was also given lots of freedom to do this – I was expected to come up with the ideas and manage the process, which was really motivating. I am an 'applied' person, so it helped that there was a tangible end goal – a product – I like doing things where there's a need for an outcome, which is what KTP is all about.

FROM KTP I HAVE LEARNT...

A lot more about managing a project. I've improved my organisational skills, my appreciation of commercial deadlines, as well as my technical knowledge. I also attended a number of training courses, for example financial management, which helped as I managed the budget of my project, and it also taught the basics of setting up your own business.

LIFE AFTER KTP IS...

After I finished my KTP I was offered a permanent position with the company, but I decided to return to academia to study for a PhD. It's something I always wanted to do, and ultimately, I want to pursue a career in academia long-term.

I WILL RECOMMEND KTP BECAUSE...

KTP provides you with the opportunity to gain experience in industry, plus lots of additional benefits – such as training courses and academic support. Many graduates struggle to find a job after finishing their studies, but KTP really helps you stand out from the crowd.

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