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Graduate Case Study

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“KTP bridges the gap between academia and business.”

Associate Profile: Gareth Kennedy

Name: Gareth Kennedy
Qualifications: BEng Electronic Engineering. PhD Mining Industry
Current Role: Research Project Manager
Location: Cornwall

MY KTP IS...

My KTP project is with the Mines Rescue Services Ltd and Camborne School of Mines, at the University of Exeter. The aim of the KTP is to introduce wireless mesh technology into underground mining, for example sensors, tracking devices and voice-comms, which can be used to track miners and vehicles underground. I am responsible for developing a proof of concept system.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT...

A major benefit of KTP is the level of ownership you're given. For me, the highlight has been the different stages of the KTP – leading an idea through to something that will really work. I've spent a considerable amount of time carrying out testing in mines and now I am working on turning this into an actual mine safety application. It's satisfying to see your research efforts put into practice. Also, through the KTP I've been able to travel extensively – so far all round Europe and later this year I'm off to China.

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

Definitely, the level of training and development. I spend around 10% of my time in training, and I am also undertaking the NVQ level four in management, which means that I attend residential courses on things like leadership and negotiation.

FROM KTP I HAVE LEARNT...

The KTP has given me the opportunity to learn much more about management, which will be really useful as my career progresses. I am also furthering my experiences and skills in my chosen field and career path.

LIFE AFTER KTP IS...

The KTP is certainly opening doors to both an industrial or academic career. I'm considering a few options at the moment, and one possibility I think is the most interesting is a potential spin out company between Exeter University and Mines Rescue Services. This would be based on the work carried out during this KTP.

I WILL RECOMMEND KTP BECAUSE...

It's a good all rounder for graduates who want to get ahead. KTP Associates get the support of academia and business experience in one go – which is a unique opportunity. Through my KTP I've been able to implement my research, strengthen my project management skills and learn about management. There aren't many other employment programmes for graduates that compare.

To turn your career options into great career options visit www.ktponline.org.uk or email graduates@ktponline.org.uk

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