



Associate profile: James Richards

Name: James Richards

Qualifications: BSc Web Management

Current Role: Web Development Manager

Location: Gowerton, Nr Swansea

KTP Project: Business System Services Ltd and Gorseinon College

"I now know what to do at the outset of any project to make it work. These skills give you real confidence in the business arena."

In my KTP I...

My two year KTP project with Gorseinon College and Business System Services Ltd aimed to develop a fully featured, multi-user ASP software system that would cater for the complete needs of the fuel distribution industry. In practice, this meant that I was responsible for developing and implementing a complete IT package to replace an existing paper-based system.

Highlights of the project and what I have learnt...

I really enjoyed the residential training available through KTP. I'm more of a 'hands-on' person, and I like practical ways of learning, so the training courses really helped me to develop my skills set. The collaboration with Gorseinon College throughout the KTP was also excellent. My Academic Supervisor was available any time we came across a problem or needed guidance, and you just can't put a price on that kind of expertise and support. The end result of the KTP was a real success. We created a new IT system which has opened up whole new markets to the company, and has received wide-spread interest at trade shows and from other companies. It's an achievement that this was my work – something that I managed and took ownership of.

The best thing about being a KTP Associate is...

KTP is a good way of getting into business and gaining industry experience. It provides you with the commercial know-how, which gives you a step up over other graduates and makes you more competitive in the marketplace. KTP has definitely helped me to progress my career at a much faster rate than others with a similar background.

From KTP I have learnt...

I learnt a lot from the project management side of the KTP – taking a concept and making it work means being responsible for managing the budget, the time scales, the delegation, the production and so on. I now know what to do at the outset of any project to make it work. These skills give you real confidence in the business arena.

Life after KTP is...

After I finished my KTP I was delighted to be offered a full time position with the company as a Web Development Manager. It's a slightly different role from my KTP, and I've been given more responsibility – I am now managing a team of three and the role is more high profile. It's a credit to the success of the KTP that I've been given this post.

I will recommend KTP because...

KTP is an ideal stepping stone from college to business.