

Knowledge
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Partnerships

Graduate Case Study

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Associate Profile: Stuart Wood

Name: Stuart Wood
Qualifications: HND in computing; BSc in computing; currently studying for an MSc in internet diagnostics
Current Role: Web Services Developer, 5 Star Computer Systems Ltd
Location: Kent

“As an Associate you are given complete ownership of a high-profile, strategic project. You just wouldn’t get that type of opportunity in a normal job.”

IN MY KTP I...

My KTP with 5 Star Computer Systems and Brighton University aimed to build the company’s web services, and increase the support they offered to their customers. My job was to investigate the hardware and software needed, and the users’ requirements, and design and develop the software, as well as the maintenance documents to go with it. I worked independently, but with the support of the Managing Director. I hadn’t used the VB.net software before, which meant I had to learn all about it which was quite a challenge, but very good experience.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT...

Getting the accreditations for the software was a great achievement. Generally, I loved being able to take on a big project, and having the interaction with so many different people. And, of course, being part of a successful project is great. I’m also lucky to be having my studies for my Masters funded through the KTP.

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

The experience as a whole. Basically getting the chances you’d never get in a normal job – it’s really exciting. The three one-week residential courses are fantastic. I didn’t want to do them at first as I thought they’d be a waste of time, but actually I learnt lots and I really enjoyed the interaction with the other associates who were all different ages, and different nationalities, and doing different projects – it’s something I’ll never forget.

FROM KTP I HAVE LEARNT...

I’ve had the experience of developing this kind of software. People now look at me as a kind of expert, even though I’ve only been with the company for two years. That’s amazing for me. I’ve also learnt more about myself. KTP builds ambition – I now know exactly what I want. It helps you to stand back and look at where you really want to be.

LIFE AFTER KTP IS...

I’ll be developing software for our customers, which is a bit of a step on from the KTP. The experience has meant that I now know more about project lifecycles, so I can roll out projects faster, delivering a commercial benefit for the company. The work following on from my KTP means that the company is able to offer a service they couldn’t previously offer, so I’ve got a really strong position, which is fantastic.

I WILL RECOMMEND KTP BECAUSE...

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