

Knowledge
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Graduate Case Study



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Associate Profile: Vishwa Wijedasa

Name: Vishwa Wijedasa
Qualifications: BEng Hons Aerospace Engineering; MPhil Process Improvement: A Rapid Cost-Effective Approach to Waste Minimisation
Current Role: Manufacturing Systems Engineer, Petlon Polymers Ltd
Location: Lydney, Nr Gloucester

“My KTP was a hugely ambitious undertaking. It was also a huge success. The support was excellent - I never felt alone, even at the most challenging times of the project.”

IN MY KTP I...

My two-year KTP project with the University of the West of England, Bristol and Petlon Polymers Ltd aimed to embed change management, project design and implementation skills, with engineering and manufacturing systems knowledge. What this meant in practice was that I was responsible for improving the quality of Petlon's processes and procedures, enabling it to strive towards strategic goals. I investigated key areas of the company – looking for areas of weakness and opportunities for improvement. Amongst the critical areas that I identified were waste disposal, energy management, product margin analysis and housekeeping standards. Following in-depth assessment of each aspect, I developed streamlined systems in each of these areas. Delivering a cultural change was a key element of this work, and to achieve this, I delivered robust internal training programmes to promote this culture of change management and continuous improvement.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT...

I did a degree in 'rocket science', so I found this challenging KTP an ideal opportunity for me to apply the basic principles of engineering and project management to make it a success. I really enjoyed being able to put theory into practice and see things happen.

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

The training and development opportunities provided are unmatched industry-wide. I started my Masters, which was funded during the KTP, and was also able to complete a NVQ level four in Management all in the two years of my KTP. The NVQ was particularly interesting, because it makes you think about your own personal development. Another exceptional aspect of KTP is the academic and industrial support, which I found invaluable. It's changed the way I think and go about business.

FROM KTP I HAVE LEARNT...

How to manage a project. I am using the skills and principles I learnt during my KTP in my current role as the manufacturing systems engineer at Petlon. New projects and challenges are no longer daunting, because I know how to approach them. I have much more confidence.

LIFE AFTER KTP IS...

After the KTP I was offered a permanent post with the company, which looks at developing my KTP work further. I've proved myself through the KTP and the company knows that I have the skills and capabilities they need to improve.

I WILL RECOMMEND KTP BECAUSE...

Through KTP you are given high levels of responsibility at a relatively early stage in your career. KTP really pushes you forward and gives you an edge over other graduates at a similar stage.

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