

Rexroth graduate blog: My first quarter

Project management trainee Oliver Rowling lifts the lid on life as a new graduate trainee

The first few days were relaxed, with inductions, introductions and IT set-up. On our first evening we all went out and enjoyed a lovely meal with our new colleagues and managers to help us really settle in.

It wasn't long before I was handed over to the Project Managers here in Cirencester, and they were great! They found ways for me to assist, whilst helping to build my knowledge of the company, the departmental roles and what each of our sites specialised in. Before the first week was over we were even given a 'welcome' hamper.

Within the first month our HR contact arranged a trip to the St Neots site for us that involved a site tour and a detailed explanation of what of what the associates and departments did on a day-to-day basis. We got the opportunity to meet lots of new faces, including some key staff from St Neots and our mentors for the duration of our Graduate Programme. We have also had monthly calls with our HR contact, who has talked to us a group, checked our wellbeing and progress and just generally made sure we were settling in and happy. Coupling this with regular weekly meetings with my manager, the transition from education to employment has felt very smooth.

To continue our embedding into the company and build on our exposure to the St Neots site, we were sent off to Wakefield. Once again we were given an interesting tour of their site and got to immerse ourselves in their VR technology. This was particularly useful as they showed us how you can use it to completely de-construct a 3D model and explore each component thoroughly. A highlight of this trip was the chance to not only re-connect with our fellow graduate from St Neots, but also to spend an evening getting to know him better over a few drinks in the hotel bar. This may seem a small thing, but getting the chance to develop our relationship with a colleague that is similar in age and career development to me, in an informal environment, was brilliant.

Our next excursion involved training at the Bosch facility in Coventry and since we were already in Coventry, this trip was coupled with a visit to the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC). We were given a tour of their facilities and had the chance to see some amazing things, including, but not limited to a huge laser! (and who doesn't think lasers are cool? No-one, that's who).

We have benefited from other team-building type activities locally with our managers and teams. For me this has meant a couple of lovely breakfasts with the Project Management team from Cirencester (mmmmm bacon).

My first quarter here has been thoroughly enjoyable. Although I've talked about the highlights, there has been a good amount of hard work involved too (I promise). I've learned a lot already and look forward to learning and developing here further over the next two years. Thank you to everyone who helped to make joining a new company much less scary than I thought it would be and much more enjoyable than I could have expected.

From left to right our 2019 graduates: Sulaman Ahmad, Quality; Brian Mannion, Applications; James Winterbottom, Systems Engineering; Daniela Warner, Purchasing; Oliver Rowling, Project Management.
Photo credit: Oliver Rowling

