

ELECTRONIC SECURITY APPRENTICE

NAME: JAMES SHEARER

AGE: 23

EMPLOYER: SELECT ALARMS, HAMILTON

Training Status:

Currently dual-skilling, completing the National Certificate in Electronic Security Installer [Level 3] and National Certificate in Electrical Engineering [Electrician for Registration] [Level 4] at the same time.

Where did you hear about an electronic security apprenticeship?

I started out doing an electrical apprenticeship, but wasn't very happy in the company where I was employed. Then ETITO's Trainee Manager told me about the opportunity at Select Alarms and I decided to go for it. My boss here encouraged me to finish my electrical apprenticeship as well as starting the electronic security apprenticeship.



What appealed to you most about this kind of a career?

Tradesmen are sought after all over the country and overseas and always seem to be in demand, so I guess it's the thought of having a secure job and future, and the Security Industry will always be a thriving industry.

Was the apprenticeship what you expected or different?

I had no idea what it would be like, so I didn't really have any expectations.

What the best thing about being an electronic security apprentice?

I think it's the variety. You could be installing an alarm in an access panel or an access control on a door or lift, or doing a major access control installation on every floor of a 12 story building. There's lots of client contact, which was intimidating at first, but it makes a difference when you get good instructions and are clear about what is required.

What's challenging about it?

Life is full of challenges they can crop up anywhere/anytime you just have to deal with them. But there's always tech support you can ring for advice and people on site who can point you in the right direction.



How do you find the off-job training?

The security stuff hasn't been too bad at all, my electrical work is harder. I think night school is good. For me it definitely helps being in a class with other people.

What do your friends/family think about your apprenticeship?

My parents think it's a good idea to get a recognised qualification that could help me get a job in numerous places around the world.

What are your dreams for the future?

I haven't really thought about it. I just want to get through my training first. I'll probably keep working here for the time being.

What advice would you give someone who was thinking about an electronic security apprenticeship?

For me it hasn't seemed like an 'apprenticeship', it's just like coming to work really. The work is really different and interesting. You get to go out in the van to jobs by yourself and also get to work in a team. There's plenty of variety.