Apprenticeship Case Study
Kai Mumford

Studying: Digital and Technology Solutions Professional Degree Apprenticeship

Career: IT Degree Apprentice at IBM

"I got a job straight after college with IBM, and as part of that role I had the chance to undertake the degree apprenticeship in Digital and Technology Solutions.

"I'm fortunate to be in an organisation where continuous learning is encouraged. Part of software development is recognising that if you don't know something, you should take the opportunity to learn about it. IBM are willing to offer me the time off I need to carry out my apprenticeship studies and they have been flexible in supporting me with my learning.

"The apprenticeship has really kickstarted my career and shown me the breadth of knowledge to succeed in this industry. I now have a good appreciation of the working world in tandem with academic learning. I'm much more confident in my own skills and abilities and I feel more qualified to offer input on projects. It's given me the independence and sense of initiative when confronted with obstacles to go online and search out the answers I need.

"I chose an apprenticeship over a degree because it offered the knowledge and skills of a degree programme but also 3 years of work experience, a salary to support myself, and no student loan debt.

"I don't like to be sat around not doing anything. When I'm in work I like to be constantly engaging with something until I finish for the day. I am keen to be challenged and stay active, the combination of studying and working keeps me busy all day, every day and I enjoy the pacing of the course.

"After I graduate, I will most likely look at a part-time master's degree and then a PhD if possible. My experiences on the apprenticeship programme have only encouraged me to continue learning with DMU."