

OUTSTANDING TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL SKILLS NATIONAL PROGRAMME

1f. Careers Path Questionnaire for Employers - Simon Fortis
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What path did you take into your current position after you finished school/college?

- Various temporary or short turn position in warehouses and production lines
- Lab Technician – included further education (BTEC applied Science)
- QA
- Technical administrator
- Technical Supervisor
- Technical Manager - Current Position.

What did you want to do after you finished college/school?

I did not have a specific career in mind leaving 6th form, but enjoy science subjects. So when a job advertise working in a wet chemistry lab for a drinks company I applied , was successful and thoroughly enjoyed the post and working in the food industry hence this started my career path.

How does what you are doing now match the expectations you had while you were in education?

My current position far exceeds my expectations whilst in 6th form. I had little expectation leaving education and was fortunate to fall in to an industry I love and I have the pleasure of knowing the products I help make are enjoyed by consumers every day.

What is your job now, and what do you get to do on a day-to-day basis?

As a technical manager in the food industry, I have the responsibility for the quality and food safety of the goods we produce and as such no two days are ever the same. One day I might be auditing suppliers, the next handling customer enquiries. I could be liaising with enforcement agency (trading standards or environmental health) and the next working on new products. And all the time ensure the food we produce is safe and meets the customers' expectations.

What is the best thing about your job?

I love the challenge each day, I enjoy the problem solving aspect of the role and I get immense satisfaction when I get feedback from customers when they tell you the food I help make is the best or their favourite.

What would you advise students to do at college which could help them get into this career?

The BTEC applied science course give good fundament knowledge to the science disciplines needed to work in the food industry, a strong understanding of microbiology in particular pathogens is useful.