

As an apprentice research assistant my main role involves using specialist computer software to format data sheets so we can see what behaviours go on in different areas. I enjoy the team spirit and camaraderie of the department. I also find it really interesting to look at the statistics to find out what's going on.

My ambition in life is to become a music teacher and I have accepted a place to study at University in September 2010. However, after completing my A' levels I wanted to get a year's work experience and make sure a career in teaching was right for me.

I initially applied for another position but was unsuccessful. I did not do any extra curricular activities at school and had no real work experience to talk about in the interview; so it was really difficult to convince the employer that I was the right person to take on. I overcame this by researching a lot of the questions that are asked in interviews and preparing answers. I also looked on the council's website and found out what research the department was currently working on and what they would be doing in the future.

I have completed my NVQ 2 in Business Administration. However, as this did not have much to do with my current job I feel it is the experience that I have gained from this apprenticeship which will benefit me most. I am now more confident and have improved my communication, listening and ICT skills. I am also more prepared for working life and now know the direction I want to go in the future.