



## **Craig Gray**

### **Mechanical Engineer**

### **Building Services Design**

My experience so far working for Building Services Design (BSD) has been fantastic.

I joined BSD at the age of 18, straight after I gained my sixth form qualifications and I have certainly not looked back.

I had no previous experience within the building services or construction industry, however I knew I wanted to work within this line of work in some way.

I was employed by BSD as a trainee CAD Technician and, thanks to our CAD Manager and my colleagues, was quickly able to learn basic skills & technical information from them. BSD funded me to gain CAD Level 2 & 3 qualifications.

I spent a total of two years as a qualified CAD technician before I decided that I wanted to further my career within the building services industry and become a mechanical engineer. This interest stemmed from drawing mechanical building services systems in CAD for other engineers. I knew this was what I wanted to do.

I let BSD know this was how I wanted to progress my career and they didn't hesitate to allow me to look into mechanical engineering courses and institutions. They funded my ONC and HNC building services courses whilst paying for all my travel expenses. Although this meant BSD would lose my services for one day a week, they still paid me my full wage. My job title was changed to Mechanical Technician Engineer.

During these courses BSD adjusted my workload to suit the varying workloads of the courses and I received help and advice from my colleagues when I needed it. I was also given a more senior engineer as a mentor and he really helped and guided me with both my BSD work and the work for my ONC and HNC. After gaining a double distinction in my ONC course, whilst also gaining exposure on live projects, BSD promoted me to Intermediate Mechanical Engineer and rewarded me with a bonus of £1000.

Shortly before finishing my HNC course, BSD promoted me again to Mechanical Engineer and gave me a pay rise. I was extremely happy about this and felt well rewarded for all my efforts.

I have since been allowed to lead, design & manage my own live projects. The mentoring I was given at BSD and my college experience has been essential in my success on these projects to date.