

Lloyd Hanson – Case Study

Lionweld Apprentice, 2018 – Present

My apprenticeship journey began in September 2018 with a level 3 qualification in Engineering. My job role was a technical apprentice in design and draughting in the structural steelwork sector.

The main goal for my first year of the apprenticeship was to understand the software and I achieved this by completing tutorial packages and self-study into the structural steel industry.



The second year of my apprenticeship is where I really started developing my skills, knowledge, and professional behavior. I was at a competent enough level to begin working on live jobs. For the first few months, I was tasked with completing small variation orders to the original project contracts. This was a great starting point to improve my skills and knowledge and improved my ability to work to British and International standards. I began liaising with customers directly and expediting relevant departments within Lionweld such as Project Managers and Procurement teams.

In April 2020, I was given the opportunity to be the lead draughtsman on a new project the business had won. My tasks included completing a fully detailed model, producing General Arrangement (GA) drawings, producing fabrication packages, and attending client design meetings. This project did not only vastly improve my skills in steel detailing and using the Tekla software, but it also improved my confidence and ability to complete jobs on scheduled target dates.

Later in 2020, I was given the opportunity to join the quality department as a “QA apprentice”. Before migrating over into the department, I completed a 3-day course to become a qualified internal auditor.

During the third year of my apprenticeship, I was primarily focusing on the quality department rather than the drawing office. The change in role was going to require a new skill set. I began learning about welding inspection and the acceptance criteria. This prompted Lionweld to invest in my personal development and put me through the CSWIP 3.0 – Visual Welding Inspector, ran by TWI (The Welding Institute) which I passed in June 2021.

For the remainder of 2021, my responsibility in the department increased. I was now planning and executing internal audits on departmental processes. I began visiting sub-contractor workshops to complete post-fabrication welding and dimensional inspections. I was heavily involved with compiling large project quality packages and investigating non-conformities ranging from small risk and cost to large risk and cost to the business.



In September 2021, I was shortlisted for the Make UK regional awards ceremony for the rising star apprentice of the year in manufacturing. I attended the awards dinner in October and received the runners up spot for the whole North East, Yorkshire and Humberside apprentices. This was a very proud moment for me and for Lionweld.

The fourth year of my level 3 apprenticeship saw me gather enough evidence to be submitted for my end point assessment (EPA). The process of completing my design and draughting apprenticeship had some challenges due to my job role changing from the drawing office to the quality department however I completed my EPA and achieved an overall mark of a Merit for my Level 3 apprenticeship.

In September 2022 I started my career at Teesside University where I will be completing a Mechanical Engineering degree over the next 6 years. The degree forms part of my new apprenticeship which is a Level 6 Manufacturing Engineer qualification.

I am further progressing in my workplace as each year passes, with more and more responsibility being given to me by my line manager and department leads. I have attended multiple sites across the country to investigate

non-conformities with the product we have supplied, along with two third-party supplier businesses to conduct external audits. This proves the level of trust the company have in me to travel within working time, attend site and liaise directly with clients and suppliers face to face.

My future goals and ambitions are to complete my level 6 apprenticeship and qualify from University. I am aiming for first-class honors. I would also like to become part of the quality institute, starting with a PCQI (Quality Practitioner) and continue growing in the fabrication / manufacturing industry with ambitions to become director level further on in my career.

Overall Lionweld Kennedy have invested approximately £56,0000 into my development since 2018. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities the business has provided. My dedication to perform and produce my best work is at an all-time high, and I aim to improve my skills and knowledge each day.