

Reece Cook, Apprentice Power Engineer

What has been your career journey so far?

I joined Ipsum's Power sector as an Apprentice Engineer in September 2020. Before that, I worked for a client of Ipsum's – AGFA – but was made redundant due to site closures. I started at AGFA as an apprentice electrical maintenance engineer and was working on things like installation, motors and some Low Voltage (LV) work.

What course are you studying?

BTEC Level 3 in Electronic and Electrical Engineering

What does your role involve?

Working as an apprentice within the Power industry, my role involves working alongside experienced High Voltage (HV) and Low Voltage (LV) electrical engineers on site, learning how to carry out different High Voltage roles within the Power industry. I can gain experience on different sites for a variety of customers such as supermarkets, prisons and hospitals as well as Ministry of Defence and renewable energy sites. There's a lot of learning – both on the job and at college but it keeps me engaged in my role.

My role also involves carrying out maintenance work to ensure the power stays up and running correctly and safely for our customers, fitting electrical switchgear and transformers. I have also been allowed to learn how to test high voltage power systems which includes full functionality testing and commissioning, which will support my future job prospects.

As an apprentice I do a lot of shadowing of colleagues to broaden and develop my knowledge. I have also been allowed to be given work by test engineers to figure out for myself and then a Senior Engineer will check what I have done and give me constructive feedback to assist my learning.



What is your favourite part of the job?

I enjoy seeing all the different pieces of equipment and working across multiple sites. I enjoy working on different types of relays which are tested differently, which is interesting. Every day is different!

How are you finding Ipsum?

I am enjoying my time at Ipsum. I feel supported in my role and enjoy the working environment. I get along well with everybody on-site and in the offices. I like the culture and the way there is always something happening. I know if I have an issue that is related to my role or not I have someone to speak to who can help. I find the work Ipsum does interesting and its customers great to work for.

Would you recommend Ipsum?

I would absolutely recommend Ipsum as a company to work for. They are professional, fun, enjoyable and a supportive employer.

How are you finding the course?

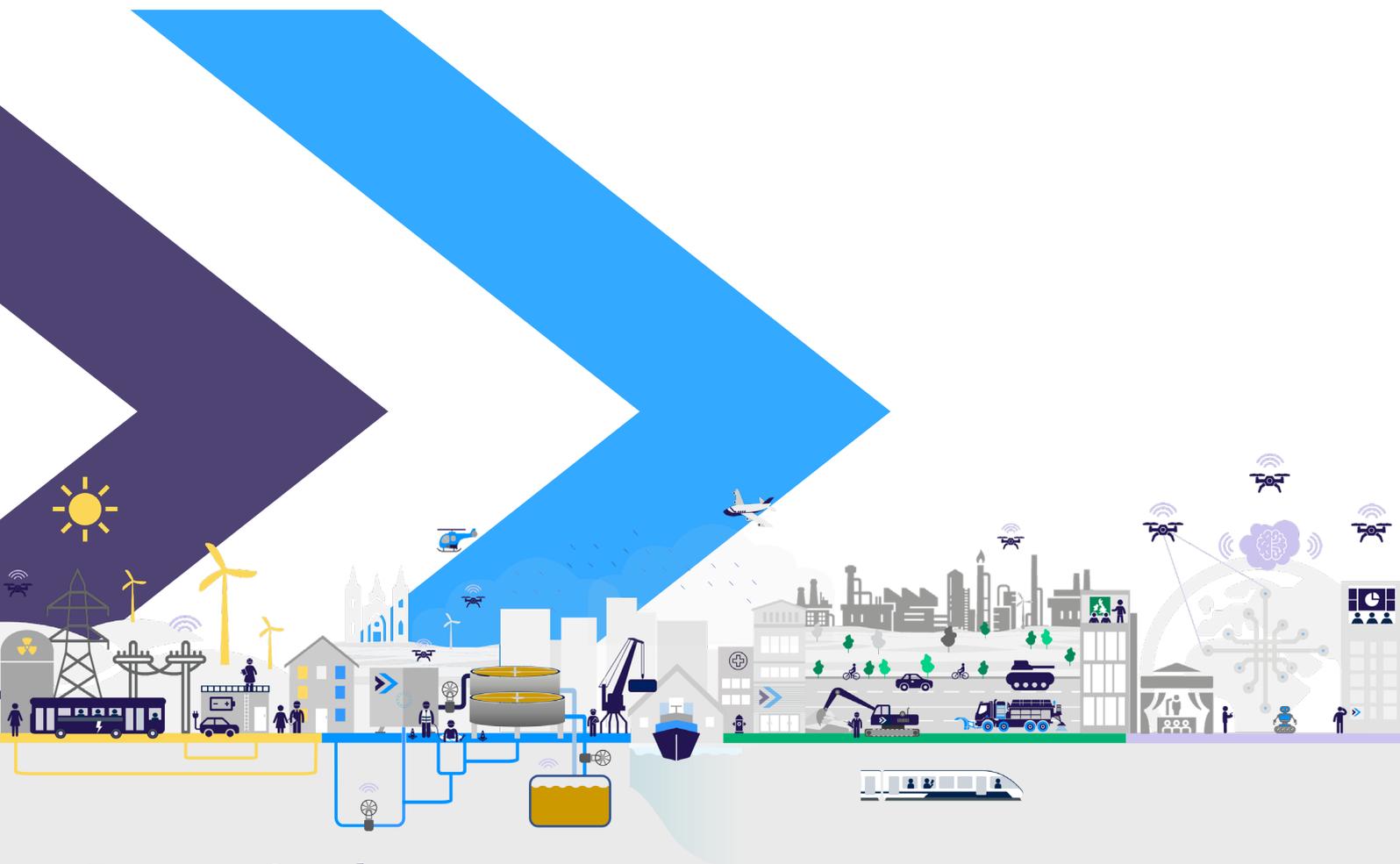
I'm enjoying the course. It would be even better if the course was more tailored specifically towards the Power industry rather than being a generic electrical course. However, it is a good course which provides a lot of breadth and I am learning everything from the basics. I do feel that a lot of my knowledge comes from working on the job with the other engineers though - that's the great thing about apprenticeships. I am really enjoying the course and I feel like I am learning a lot that I wouldn't have been able to learn by just going to college without being able as well to get the practical experience at the same time.

What are your aspirations for your future career?

My goal is to become more competent to carry out jobs on my own, without shadowing a more experienced engineer. I would also like to be able to work towards my Senior Appointed Person (SAP) authorisation in years to come.

I want to be able to go to a job and carry out the testing and commission on my own with confidence, be able to fault-find as to what may have occurred on site and why something may not be working.

I look forward to my future within Ipsum and being promoted internally as part of my progression plan.



Reece Cook
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Power Engineer

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