

Your name

Stefanie Potter

Your apprenticeship programme

Chartered Management Degree Apprenticeship

About you

I am currently employed as Exploration's Deputy Strategic Partnerships Leader in Dstl, Ministry of Defence. I am a full-time working mum of a two-year old boy.



Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I thought it was a great way to study a new area, whilst retaining my job. As a military wife, 8 years ago I changed career to accommodate relocating for my husband's work and I transitioned to working for Dstl.

Due to this, I wanted a qualification for this new career should we relocate again.

How has the apprenticeship enhanced your career?

I have developed a vast breadth of knowledge around leadership that I have been able to utilise in several of the roles that I have undertaken throughout my apprenticeship. As the main effort towards my CPD (continued professional development), this will provide invaluable evidence towards justifying promotion and further career progression

What did your apprenticeship mean to you?

Becoming an accredited Chartered Manager means a lot to me as it allows me to gain the respect from colleagues regarding my competency as a leader and around my knowledge and experience.

Also, having had a break in learning to have a baby and complete my final year with a then one year old, whilst working full-time, was one of the most challenging periods of my life to date; however, I feel exceptionally proud that I was able to complete the apprenticeship and did not give up, and used the support of my husband and my Skills Coach to help me succeed. When I started, as a non-academic, I could never have dreamed of obtaining a First Class (Hons) degree or Distinction with the CMI.

What advice would you give to an existing apprentice?

The time commitment at Level 6 is significantly more than the other levels and involving your line manager in the apprenticeship and major project process is essential to ensure that they can provide additional time (above the 20%) to focus on the work is critical, especially as the major project is of great benefit to your organisation. Also, having their support is essential for mental wellbeing when balancing stress with an increased workload. Finally, engage with your cohort offline; as allies, they will be such a great support throughout the whole apprenticeship.