

EnQuest's summer placement programme is a huge success

Undergraduates from across Scotland have gained an insight into the diversity of careers in the oil and gas industry after participating in EnQuest's first summer placement programme.

EnQuest, the largest UK independent oil producer in the UK North Sea, gave 17 undergraduates the opportunity to take their first steps onto the energy industry career ladder by working in disciplines ranging from engineering to finance.

The group, which included students from Aberdeen University, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen College and Heriot-Watt University, were selected from over 300 applicants and following a rigorous interview process, were subsequently placed within teams and departments relevant to their courses and career aspirations.

Pam Radage, HR manager said: "We've received a lot of positive feedback, from both the students and our employees. EnQuest has benefited from the fresh perspective and enthusiasm of the students, while they have had the opportunity to tap into our wealth of knowledge and expertise. It's a win-win situation for everyone.

"Putting a structured programme in place for our summer placement students has allowed us to manage the process more effectively than before and assign them to work that is relevant to their skills and interests. We hope that their experience at EnQuest has given them a taste of the breadth and depth of careers there are in the oil and gas industry."

Morven Shaw, a mechanical engineering student at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen was placed within the engineering services department. She said: "Working alongside highly skilled engineers has been an invaluable experience and that exposure has definitely motivated me as I begin my third year of studies. EnQuest has really opened my eyes to the range of career opportunities in the industry."

EnQuest employs 1,800 people including offshore contractors. Although a relative newcomer to the industry, it has already achieved significant success through its work in maximising production from ageing assets and previously undeveloped oil fields.

Neil McCulloch, EnQuest president North Sea, said: "EnQuest is committed to playing its role in ensuring the industry identifies and nurtures the next wave of talent. We have been impressed with the calibre of students on our summer placement programme and will look to build on this in the coming years."

Colin Stark who was placed with the production operations team said: "My first impression of EnQuest was the strength and depth of the teamwork across the company. The placement has gone really well and has given me the opportunity to experience the practicalities of real life operations engineering that academia can't teach."

Antria Savvidou, who worked in the supply chain department believes that the placement has helped to build a strong foundation for her future career. "I've been able to collaborate with professional people who've been willing to spend time with me regardless of their busy programme. Their expertise and knowledge has been incredibly valuable," she said.

Craig Ritchie, who undertook a placement with the finance team, was made to feel like a valued team member thanks to continual involvement in planning meetings. “Not only did it make me feel like my contribution was valued, but it also gave me a great insight to the day to day work of the department that I would not otherwise see.”

This summer placement programme also supports EnQuest’s involvement with STEM, a national campaign supported by the government, private companies and educational institutions to promote greater participation in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), especially amongst women.