



Ross Johnston

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What was your education route?

For my A-Level's I choose maths, physics, technology and geography and after I finished secondary school, I went to Queen's University to study Mechanical Engineering. In my first year of university Survitec were offering a sponsorship scheme, where they offered a summer placement, a year placement and then they paid two years of your university fees. I applied for the sponsorship and didn't expect to be successful but thankfully I was in the end. This was very useful as it meant while everyone else was busy applying for jobs and going to interviews, I was able to put more focus into my university work. My advice is to apply for everything you can, even if you don't think you'll be successful!

What job do you do now?

After graduating from Queen's University, I started my full-time job with Survitec as a Graduate Project Engineer. I work in the Engineering department who are responsible for the design of safety equipment, which is used on ships, oil rigs, aeroplanes and more. This involves a range of interesting challenges such as project managing teams to design, develop and qualify inflatable liferafts or creating large-scale evacuation systems for cruise ships.

What does the future look like for you?

The future is exciting, with my degree it means I can go down lots of different routes for my career. My plan for now is to get as much experience as I can as a graduate engineer and then start to work my way up. I think it's important to get stuck into everything you are given and use everything as a learning experience because you never know when it might help you in the future.

What advice would you give your 16 year old self?

Pick an education route that gives you a broad and varied range of skills as it will open yourself up to a range of paths you might never have thought of before. Also go out and do things which your friends aren't doing, make yourself stand out by doing interesting things.