



Q&A: UEA student

Year in Industry 2019/20

After collaborating with the Norfolk team on various education & skills programmes in 2018 and 2019, University of East Anglia (UEA) student Angus Binnian began a Year in Industry placement in our London office last September. We caught up with him for a quick chat to find out how he's getting on at this midway point.

Hi, tell us about yourself!

My name is Angus Binnian, I'm 22 years old and I'm studying Energy Engineering with a Year in Industry at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. Outside of work and study, I like to play rugby and spend time outdoors fishing and snowboarding when I get the chance.

What is the Year in Industry programme?

Year in Industry is a work placement year sandwiched between second and third year of my degree course. It provides students with the opportunity to apply knowledge, previously learned in an academic setting, in a real workplace. And it's an opportunity for new learning too.

What were your initial expectations of a Year in Industry placement?

Initially I thought a Year in Industry would really just involve a lot of support work for other people, however, the experience has far exceeded my expectations in that respect. I've been given responsibility for my own projects and work to a level that I thought I wouldn't reach this year.

At this midway point, what have you enjoyed the most about the placement?

The most enjoyable and exciting thing about my placement at Vattenfall has been the projects I'm allocated to. I have been given the chance to work on development projects with new and emerging technologies in the renewables industry. Being part of that early development has given me a great sense of purpose - I feel like I am working at the forefront of energy innovation and actively contributing to tackling the climate crisis.



Looking for more info on the Norfolk projects?

If you'd like to know more about Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farms you can find information by visiting the link shown below:

<https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk>



Active in the Community

If you'd like to read more about our community work in Norfolk please visit the page linked below:

<https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/out-and-about>



Empowering the workforce of the future

In February 2020, Angus represented Vattenfall at a carers event at his own University. Supported by Vattenfall graduate trainee Maria Carmona Sanchez-Pinilla, Angus delivered a presentation to his student peers as part of a series of careers events hosted by the University of East Anglia and the Engineering Society.

If you'd like to find out more about graduate trainee opportunities at Vattenfall please visit the page linked below:

<https://careers.vattenfall.com/young-talents/>

Q&A continued

Has the experience of working for Vattenfall met your expectations?

I find it really inspiring that everyone within the company shares the passion to make a difference through their work as well as in their personal lives. It has shown me that Vattenfall's company ethos and values are a lot more than just branding. It's a shared direction which has made the experience of working here feel so inclusive and purposeful.

The ethos really resonates with me. I particularly love having the opportunity to spend some time in the communities surrounding these projects, and also working with younger students and helping them find their own potential career paths in the same way that I found mine.

Has working with Vattenfall helped you further shape and define your own career plans?

One of the main benefits from my Year in Industry is the direction it has given me for my future career and studies. This year has helped to define how I might approach my dissertation, ideas for further studies and where I eventually want to be in my future career. I have also learned many important life and workplace skills alongside the development of my technical knowledge.

The biggest learning opportunity has probably been gaining an appreciation of the impact of collaboration. In my University studies most of the work I've done has been individual solo projects with only a few shared learning scenarios. Working on these massive projects has taught me how tasks can be completed and problems can be solved much more effectively by collaborating with other people; sharing knowledge, storing that knowledge effectively, and recording the steps taken in decision-making.

What do you most look forward to for the second half of your Year in Industry?

I'm very excited about stepping it up in the second half of my placement as I've now been given extra responsibility in my project role. I am looking forward to seeing how the projects develop and also looking forward to learning even more new skills along the way.

Thanks Angus!



Join the conversation

If you want to follow the latest updates from both the Norfolk project team and the wider Vattenfall UK team, we are active on social media.

Twitter

@VattenfallUK

Facebook

VattenfallUK

Norfolk project updates will use the following hashtags:

#NorfolkVanguard

#NorfolkBoreas

To follow the work we do with communities across the UK:

#VattenfallCommunity