

My name is Lee Tabis, and I am an Electrical Design Engineer at NG Bailey. I have been in the industry for 7 years now, after joining on an apprenticeship scheme upon leaving school at 16. Following completion of my apprenticeship and further development, I was given the role as an electrical design engineer in August 2012.



I have been a CIBSE member for the majority of my career, firstly as a student member, and then progressing to Licentiate in 2011. I was also awarded CIBSE/ASHRAE Graduate of the Year in 2012, which has been an incredible experience during the last 12 months.

BECOMING A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER

I have always had a keen interest in science and maths from my school days, and decided upon a challenge within a working environment rather than a conventional college course. When an apprenticeship was available at NG Bailey, I felt this was the ideal opportunity to step into the real world, and gain more practical skills to the interests I had. I joined NG Bailey at 16 on a 4-year advanced apprenticeship in Building Services Engineering, which included a BTEC ONC, HND, and an NVQ Level 3 in Project Management.

MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF MY JOB...

One of the most enjoyable parts of my role is knowing that there is always something new to learn and opportunities to or expand on existing skills and knowledge. There are always new technologies and concepts emerging within the industry, which keeps things fresh and interesting. I also enjoy working alongside younger engineers, and aiding their development within the industry.

GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT TO DATE

It was definitely the CIBSE/ASHRAE Graduate of the Year award in 2012, without question. The experience in itself was invaluable, but winning the award and the experiences it has opened up ever since have been unimaginable. It has definitely been a career-changing experience. The ASHRAE conference and exhibition in Dallas also opened my eyes as to what the rest of the world is currently doing, and how important it is for us all to work as a global community to strive for the best solution possible.

“ THE KEY BENEFIT OF CIBSE MEMBERSHIP IN MY OPINION IS THE NETWORK OF PEOPLE IT MAKES AVAILABLE TO YOU. I HAVE COME TO REALISE THAT OUR INDUSTRY IS FULL OF PASSIONATE AND SKILLED ENGINEERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, BUT WITHOUT DIRECT CONNECTIONS, OUR COMMUNITY IS STILL LIMITED. ACCESS TO CIBSE MEMBERSHIP AND CORRESPONDING EVENTS HELP TO DEVELOP THESE CONTACTS AND EXPAND OUR COMMUNITY ”

“ I BELIEVE THERE IS MUCH TO BE PROUD OF IN REGARD TO BEING AN ENGINEER, AND BECOMING REGISTERED AT ANY LEVEL WITHIN CIBSE AND THE ENGINEERING COUNCIL HELPS TO DEMONSTRATE THIS PRIDE, AS WELL AS HELP TO PROVIDE A CONSISTENT STANDARD FOR ENGINEERING PRACTICE ACROSS THE INDUSTRY ”

ADVICE TO OTHERS THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER

Don't ever be afraid to ask a question. Sometimes we may feel pressured to give a perception that we know everything about a subject, but there is no shame in being aware of your own knowledge boundaries, and asking somebody who may be able to help. Everybody has their own individual specialisms and areas of expertise, so we need

to utilise this as much as possible as a community and learn from each other.

APPLYING FOR LCIBSE

Once I had completed my 4 year apprenticeship and HND, I was looking for an opportunity to take the next reasonable step in my career. Due to the majority of my work being as an assistant design engineer, I felt the progression to Engineering Technician was my most natural step. This helped to demonstrate my competence, both to my own company as well as to myself, as well as help to build a stronger relationship with an institute such as CIBSE. I believe there is much to be proud of in regard to being an engineer, and becoming registered at any level within CIBSE and the Engineering Council helps to demonstrate this pride, as well as help to provide a consistent standard for engineering practice across the industry.

At first, the evidence required and report criteria were extremely daunting, and there were many occasions where I questioned whether I had the necessary knowledge and experience to fulfil the requirements. However, with the guidance and assurance of my colleagues, I realised that I had in fact met the majority of criteria already, and the report itself wasn't as difficult to structure as previously anticipated. My

advice to others looking to achieve EngTech registration is to not be overwhelmed by the report, and to speak to anyone available who has been through the process (either within your company or within CIBSE) to help ease any concerns you may have. It is good practice to keep a record of lessons learnt and experiences on projects throughout your career, so this is a great opportunity to collate these experiences, as well as achieve engineering technician registration.



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available to you. I have come to realise that our industry is full of passionate and skilled engineers throughout the world, but without direct connections, our community is still limited. Access to CIBSE membership and corresponding events help to develop these contacts and expand our community, especially with specialist groups such as YEN which help give younger engineers a platform to broaden their knowledge, as well as build effective relationships and remove perceived barriers within the industry.

BUILDING SERVICES IS GREAT BECAUSE....

It allows us to be creative, yet practical. It is continuously challenging, and can be applied to an endless variety of projects and buildings. It also makes us appreciate many aspects of the built environment that most people take for granted. As the global focus turns to energy consumption and demand, building services engineers will be the key to solving these issues. The importance of building services seems to be the best kept secret in the construction industry. ■

HOW CIBSE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS ME

The key benefit of CIBSE membership in my opinion is the network of people it makes