



LYNDA STEFEK

SALFORD BUSINESS SCHOOL



EMPLOYER:

TRANSPORT FOR
GREATER MANCHESTER
- SENIOR MANAGER FOR
ENVIRONMENT AND AIR
QUALITY

PROGRAMME:

MSc LEADERSHIP AND
MANAGEMENT

Looking back over your time on the apprenticeship so far, how have you found the whole experience?

The apprenticeship experience as a whole has been fantastic. There are some great lecturers at the University who have really brought their subject areas to life and enabled me to take back theory and knowledge into the workplace. The support of my fellow students has been amazing, we even had our own WhatsApp group and set up separate study sessions to help and support each other in our work. I have been able to apply my learning and really widen my experience and knowledge allowing me to apply new skills to tackle different situations in the workplace. I feel much more confident in the conversations I have with fellow senior managers and feel better prepared with a deeper level of understanding of terminology and business strategies.

What impact has your degree apprenticeship had in the organisation?

My dissertation is being used by the Change Team and an associated action plan for improvements in the Directorate has been established. The Marketing and Operations module was excellent and very challenging with an excellent lecturer. I have been able to bring strategies back into my role within TFGM and the presentation I worked on for the module is being used to look at how we can socialise the work we are doing. The module really has widened my knowledge around marketing and communications which I can use in my day to day role. I really am a more rounded person from a senior management perspective, I have more meaningful conversations within the workplace and have a greater level of confidence within my role and the organisation.

How would you describe the support that you've received from the University of Salford?

The lecturers are supportive and really took into account the fact a lot of the cohort had been out of learning for many years and supported us through this.

Do you have any advice for future degree apprentices?

You need to be really committed in order to undertake a master's level apprenticeship. You need to remember the 20% off-the-job hours are a minimum and for a high level qualification you will need to be doing more than this. It's a big commitment but if you have the right personality and you want to develop yourself then the apprenticeship programme is a fantastic route to go down.

Why did you choose a degree apprenticeship?

Undertaking a master's level apprenticeship was a huge opportunity for me and with the help of a mentor I was able to really develop myself. TFGM supported me in my apprenticeship and the programme has given me the confidence and ability to work with people across the organisation, understand their business needs and gain valuable experience needed at a senior level.