

Craig

Higher Apprenticeship, Group Finance

The reason why I applied for the Barclays Apprenticeship Programme was because I was at a branch for around 5 years, and I really wanted a new challenge. Applying also gave me the opportunity to earn a professional qualification, as well as giving me the opportunity to see how the financial operations at the bank is run. I'm in my second year of the apprenticeship programme, on my second rotation in the Barclaycard team. My day-to-day role consists of many things; I submit data into some core reporting tools, also collaborating with my team on weekly analysis and then we also create presentations that go to senior management to make business decisions. There is actually a lot of variety in what I do. In my team I've become the go-to person for a core reporting tool. It's really nice to be able to share the information I've learned and also help the process run more efficiently and it's actually testament to the apprenticeship that I can pass these skills on that I've learned.

One of the challenges I've faced on my apprenticeship is balancing my work and my studies, but I receive a lot of support from my team. It's going really, really well, and I'm on track to complete my qualifications and I'm really excited for the future. My team's been really, really supportive and given me the time I need to go on study leave. They also share information on internal courses, online or face-to-face. Overall they've been really, really helpful giving me everything I need.

Before coming to Barclays I had some preconceptions about being in a corporate environment but it's been completely different to what I've imagined. You meet so many different people, you learn so many different skills and you can be yourself. Once I complete the Higher Apprenticeship I can go on to the graduate scheme, I can apply for a permanent finance position in Barclays. There's actually so many options available to me, I'm really excited for what the future holds. I feel actually the programme's exceeded my expectations – you learn so much. Not only do Barclays offer work experience and some great studying opportunities, you also get the chance to network with colleagues, senior stakeholders, fellow apprentices as well, and that's why I believe that Barclays isn't the average apprenticeship.