

NEWS RELEASE

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Many different paths to a dream career

Fife Ethylene Plant is continuing a three decade-long tradition of developing its workforce.

And those highly sought-after careers can be reached in many different ways – as ExxonMobil's latest Process Technician recruits know very well.

"Going to university was never an option for me as I didn't want to do all that studying," said Greg Robertson (28), who lives in Dunfermline. "I wanted something where I could start earning right away."

But it took him a few years to discover what he wanted to do.

After starting an apprenticeship as a panel beater then working in a brewery, he joined the Navy at 19.

"I did a marine engineering apprenticeship, learning electrical and mechanical skills, and worked on the maintenance of nuclear submarines for eight years based at Faslane. Because I was on nuclear subs we were never told where we were being deployed."

After leaving the Navy he worked in facilities maintenance before hearing about the job at FEP.

"My skills are quite transferrable which has been a big help," he added.

Jamie MacFarlane (31) from Kincardine did an apprenticeship as a Mechanical Technician and worked at Grangemouth for a few years.

He was offered the opportunity to work on a new gas plant being built in Shetland, and jumped at the chance.



"I started there in 2014 and it was interesting work as it was a brand new plant," he explained.

"Lots of my friends including my brother, went to university, but I got an apprenticeship as I thought it was the most direct route to where I wanted to go.

"My job at FEP is ensuring the safe running of the plant and equipment and preparing them for maintenance.

"I heard about this job through someone who works here and I was keen to move from mechanical to the process side of things. I'm really enjoying the training."

Glenn Norton (29), who is originally from Crossgates and now lives in Dunfermline, started out working for his dad's business and did an apprenticeship in pipefitting before going to work offshore for Wood Group as a pipefitter.

He came to work at FEP at the end of 2016 as a contractor for Wood because he wanted to spend more time with his two young children, and two years later became an embedded contractor – working directly for ExxonMobil through an agency.

When Glenn heard about the vacancies for Process Technicians he didn't think twice.

"I already know the plant and a lot of the staff here and I have been doing maintenance on the equipment that I am now training to operate, which is all good," he explained.

"My family were keen for me to go to university, but I always wanted to just get hands-on. I'm looking forward to working as a permanent part of the team."

Robert Johnstone (29) grew up in Motherwell and initially went to university to study Economics and Finance, but soon realised it wasn't for him.

He worked in a call centre, then joined the Merchant Navy, travelling the world and completing a college course in Marine Engineering.

"It was a good experience and I learned a lot while getting to visit many places including Japan and Australia."

Family matters drew him home and he took a job as an agricultural engineer, doing maintenance work on agricultural machinery.

He always wanted to join the oil and gas industry and applied and was successful in getting a job at an ExxonMobil refinery in Fawley in the south of England where he trained to become a Process Technician.

He worked at Fawley for three years, but was always keen to return home, so when he saw the same job advertised at Fife Ethylene Plant he applied.

"I am really enjoying it here and it means that I can go home at night to my partner and my two boys," he said.