

Case Study: Alumni

Tim, MEng Mechanical Engineering
Graduation Year: 2003

Job Title: Production Unit Support Engineer
Employer: ESSAR

What has been your career path up until now?

I graduated from Imperial in 2003 and joined Shell's Stanlow refinery that year.



What does your job involve?

I spent my first two years in the rotating equipment team, troubleshooting problems on pumps, turbines and compressors around site as part of a team. I then moved to one of the chemicals units for four years, which produces industrial grade alcohol. I was responsible for resolving the day to day engineering issues, implementing reliability improvements, and holding the engineering budget. During this role I became a Chartered Engineer with the IMechE, and a nominated engineer on site, allowing me to sign to approve modifications to the plant. I now work on a unit that covers the final process in making base oils for lubricants and components for petrol and diesel. My main responsibilities are to ensure that the correct improvements are identified and have funding approved and to ensure that the correct scopes of work are carried out, during major maintenance events when the units are shut down for a three week period. To do this I work with many different groups of people, including the unit operators, maintenance technicians, accountants, unit managers, electrical engineers, chemical engineers, civil engineers project engineers and many specialist contractors. The only way to truly appreciate the size of the plant that I work on is to visit it. The scale and diversity of the equipment on site and meeting the challenges it gives with such a great team of people is one of the best things about my job.

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- Tim

What part of your course did you particularly enjoy?

During my time at Imperial I particularly enjoyed the Materials and stress analysis sections. Whilst I rarely do the calculations myself, the knowledge gained from my degree has proven time and time again to be invaluable.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities?

Outside of college, my main interests were rowing, which I started at school, continued at Imperial, and still greatly enjoy, and travel. I feel I made the most of the long holidays!



Could you give us one or more career tips for Imperial graduates?

The best tip I can give to anyone applying for a job is to have examples of things that you have done, and what you gained from it. Be ready for the question, 'Give me an example of a time when you have overcome adversity / led a group of people to an outstanding result / etc'.

