



Name: Jack Ashby

Employer: Adaptix Imaging

Role: : Fabricating and testing x-ray emitters

“You should find a field/sector which interests you the most and get in touch with a company who won’t mind showing you the ropes”.

What does your current job involve?

Fabricating and testing x-ray emitters, developing improved methods for emitter fabrication and carrying out all tests under high vacuum and ultra high vacuum.

What degree did you study and what did you do next?

After completing a physics degree (MPhys) at the University of Kent, I was not sure what I wanted to do. I saw an advert posted by SEPnet for a short term role with Adaptix. I successfully applied for this role and my internship has now lead to a permanent position in a similar lab scientist/engineering role.

What is the best thing about your job?

Knowing that I’m contributing to a product that will improve diagnostic methods in medicine.

What is a typical day like?

Every morning the whole team has a 5 minute ‘scrum’ meeting. Each person gives a summary of what they achieved the previous day, the issues involved and what they hope to achieve in the day. I then carry out final checks on the vacuum chamber in which an emitter sample will be tested before carrying out the day’s experiment. Following that, the sample will be removed for another lab scientist to examine, the next emitter installed and the chamber set to bake-out overnight ready for the next day’s test. I also assist the mechanical engineer in prototype assembly which is carried out in an ISO-5 ‘clean zone’. Between these jobs I spend time typing up notebooks on experiments, assembly methods and investigating ways to improve our techniques or the overall prototype.

What career advice would you offer a physics student?

You should find a field/sector which interests you the most and get in touch with a company who won’t mind showing you the ropes. Try to get some work experience before you graduate so you can learn about working life in your desired field and what direction you can take in the future. Most importantly to your future employers, this will prove how well you perform in the work place.

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