

T&I – Rail - Track Graduate - Reuben Sykes



About You

Hi, I'm Reuben, I joined the Rail Engineering Services team in Manchester in 2020 after graduating from University of Liverpool with a Meng in Mechanical Engineering. I feel that rail is extremely vital to combatting climate change and connecting people that would otherwise struggle to be together. Being in a role helping these important issues definitely makes the job rewarding.

Why WSP Graduate Development Programme?

I have had the opportunity to work in lot different roles, both within WSP and with external secondments. These have allowed me to have a varied CV that will help me in the future. The varied and changeable workload, along the work/life flexibility. Being able to take up to 2 hours break in the middle of the day because of the 'WSP Hour' makes a massive difference, especially in the winter months.

What is the culture like at WSP?

WSP are very supportive in ensuring that ECPs progress their chartership; providing an accreditation mentor to take you through the process whilst also covering any financial fees to cover the costs. WSP is very active in charity work, and I helped organise a charity festival in the south of England, Dorset Fest, raising over £21000 for various charities and hospices. The volunteering days were vital in setting up the venue and preparing for the event.

What's the application process like?

The process was similar to lots of the other application procedures done by big companies, including online tests, questionnaires, face to face interviews, group work exercises and exams. interview was extremely informal, I essentially just chatted about my university and personal projects and explained what they had taught me and what had gone wrong. The interviewers very relaxed and were interested and involved in what I was saying which immediately made me feel more comfortable.

Why should I join your team?

Track work provides the basis for rail design, you get to be at the starting line for all projects and make the early decisions of what new projects will look like. Decisions you make will be passed on through the rest of the project, and effect lots of people.