



# REBECCA BEET



## INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER

Adactus, Thame (Oxfordshire)

Thames Valley Apprentice of the Year Award winner 2019

***“An apprenticeship has helped me gain confidence, learn new skills and meet new people. It’s also given me a foot in the door at a highly regarded IT company.”***

Becca excelled in IT, but studying computer science at university wasn't what she'd imagined. When she switched gears to an apprenticeship at Adactus, a small software and CRM company, things just felt right. She got to work on challenging IT projects, gain experience and gain a massive amount of confidence – and even took home the Thames Valley Apprentice of the Year 2019 award.

### **How it all started**

Whilst I was doing my GCSEs, ICT was my favourite subject. I've always been into the latest tech advances and interested in what is going on in the tech world. I took ICT as one of my A-Levels and grew to love it even more. Initially, I chose to study computer science at university, but having started the course I found university life wasn't for me. The course content wasn't what I'd expected and the jump from studying at school was difficult to adjust to, especially with the lack of individual support. That's when I joined up with QA to find an apprenticeship.

### **A life-changing experience**

Doing an apprenticeship has helped me gain confidence, learn new skills and meet new people, which has improved my social skills massively. It's also given me a foot in the door at a highly regarded IT company, gaining first-hand experience in dealing with some well-known high street brands which will look very impressive on my CV. I am meeting lots of new people (both at Adactus and through my course), I get to study at my own speed and enjoy the support from both QA and Adactus. And of course, there's the benefit of earning whilst you're learning which means I'll be starting my future career without the burden of student debt. An apprenticeship highlight for me was being nominated by Adactus and winning the Thames Valley Apprentice of the Year Award 2019 this January!

I would highly recommend apprenticeships. Gaining first-hand experience really sets you apart from those who don't have any – especially when it comes to job applications. Prospective employers will recognise you're already familiar with a working environment, that you understand the day-to-day pressures and demands of working within time and budget restraints and that you've developed communication skills, which are key to successfully working as part of a team.

### **My day-to-day**

Within my team at Adactus, I perform a monthly update to an IP address database for a client, regularly review our anti-virus portal for any potentially unwanted software or infected devices, move projects from physical infrastructure to cloud-based solutions, install updates on servers or devices (both for our employees and for our clients) and ensure we're complying with GDPR and other data protection laws. I also run training sessions for employees helping them to recognise phishing, and I demonstrate how to use our interactive whiteboard or any new technology we install. When needed, I re-image new machines and configure these to our business requirements, including encrypting drives and installing applications. I also help the wider office – I create online forms, highlight GDPR policies for HR, help the finance department with monthly invoicing, and assist with health and safety compliance. During the past year I also got to help staff our exhibition stand at ExCel London, liaised with potential clients and acted as a brand ambassador.

### **Working at Adactus**

I really enjoy working for Adactus. They are very passionate about what they do, and this is infectious. Because they offer a bespoke software service, they are by nature creative, good listeners and do things differently, and they get to work on some challenging projects. I love working for a small business because you get to know individual employees, have lots of one-on-one support and I haven't felt overwhelmed entering the workplace for the first time. They are very supportive and always go the extra mile to make sure I'm up to speed with my coursework.

Adactus are also very welcoming – they don't make work feel boring or a chore! They value their employees, and many have been with the company for several years. They provide everything you need to do your job and more, regularly offering career and personal development opportunities to ensure you're working to your full potential. They also promote a relaxed and friendly atmosphere in the office and recognise that some employees need flexibility to enjoy a good work/life balance.

### **The future is bright**

In the future, I'd like to further my development by completing a Level 4 apprenticeship and achieve the next level Microsoft qualifications. I'm interested in future management roles and whilst working with Adactus I hope to develop my communication and leadership skills. Together with my IT capabilities, this will set me on a strong career path!

My top three career goals are to succeed in IT management, become a MCSP in a relevant field and maybe start my own business one day. A dream project would be to work on a project related to the NHS, specifically mental health. These are things I care deeply about and to be able to help others through my work in IT would be very satisfying.

