

Gain a degree, 5 years work experience  
and no student debt

[www.southwales.ac.uk/network75](http://www.southwales.ac.uk/network75)



# Network75 at the University of South Wales

Network75 is a combined work and study route to a degree. Undergraduates apply their academic knowledge to real-life work within a host company.

During term-time, students work in a local business 3 days per week and attend university 2 days per week. During holiday periods students work 5 days per week at their host company. All students also get a holiday allowance and study leave for revision.

Network75 currently offers placements in the following degree areas;

**Accounting & Finance**

- BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance

**Business**

- BA (Hons) Business and Management
- BA (Hons) Human Resource Management
- BSc (Hons) Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management
- BSc (Hons) Marketing Management

**Computing**

- BSc (Hons) Computing

**Engineering**

- BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering

**Law**

- LLB Legal Practice

**Surveying**

- BSc (Hons) Construction Project Management
- BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management

The scheme grows year on year along with our course portfolio so if a degree is not listed please contact us as we may be able to offer it.

**Why Students Choose Network75 at the University of South Wales**

**Excellent employability**

Combining work with study helps to improve students’ future employability. Network75 trainees graduate with both academic and practical training, making them industry-ready, and well prepared for the workplace. To date, all students who have graduated from Network75 have been offered jobs by their companies and often accept senior positions upon graduation.

**Earn while you learn**

Network75 students receive a minimum tax-free bursary of £5,000 per academic year, which increases by £500 each academic year. Approximately 80% of current Network75 students receive additional payments from their host companies.

**No student debt**

All Network75 students have their tuition fees paid in full. Students on Network75 can therefore choose to graduate without any student debt.

**Network of opportunities**

We have a network of over 400 quality companies across South Wales and the West of England. Opportunities are available in a wide variety of industries within companies of all sizes, from large multi-nationals to small enterprises.

**Professional training scheme**

All companies participating in Network75 must prove that they are innovative and able to offer a high quality placement to students. This means students can be sure of a top-quality position that will give them the best training and experience. Host companies and Network75 work closely to develop individual student training plans.

**Further Information**

To find out more or to apply, visit [www.southwales.ac.uk/network75](http://www.southwales.ac.uk/network75), call 01443 482 203 or e-mail [network75@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:network75@southwales.ac.uk)

# Network75 at the University of South Wales - Company Information

Network75 provides companies with a cost-effective means of accessing graduate employees.

Network75 students can improve the competitiveness, growth and development of local businesses by facilitating exchanges of information, and fresh knowledge between industry and higher education. Through education and training, Network75 students are able to share up-to-date academic knowledge with colleagues.

Network75 is available to any company regardless of size, from a sole trader to a large multi-national company. Companies must be able to provide a professional training and development programme, offering relevant experiences to students.



**Why Companies Choose Network75 at the University of South Wales**

**High quality, motivated people**

Network75 provides high quality, highly motivated students who live locally. These students are able to learn and grow within your company. Over 70% of companies participating in the scheme believe that Network75 students provide knowledge, expertise, and qualities that non- graduate employees cannot.

**Recruitment and administration**

Network75 has an effective and established recruitment process. All application forms are carefully filtered, references are requested, and potential students are interviewed at the University to ensure high quality candidates are available to Network75 companies. Companies can then interview candidates to decide which student would be most suitable.

**Use of University facilities**

Through Network75, companies can build strong links with the University of South Wales, enabling further collaborative partnerships to develop across the University.

**Support from the University of South Wales**

Network75 works closely with companies to develop individual training plans for students to ensure continual development. Network75 conducts annual review meetings with each company and student, ensuring that companies are kept up-to-date with students’ academic progress.

**Long-term resource planning**

Network75 has become the preferred training scheme for many companies. During the time the student spends with the company they grow and develop within the organisational structure. Upon graduation they have the qualifications, skills, experience, and knowledge of a tailor made employee. Companies agree that students provide rewards soon after joining the scheme and have become a key resource to companies. This is illustrated by the fact that all students graduating on the Network75 scheme to date have been offered full-time positions within their host companies.

**Further Information**

To find out more or to apply, visit [www.southwales.ac.uk/network75](http://www.southwales.ac.uk/network75), call 01443 482 203 or e-mail [network75@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:network75@southwales.ac.uk)

## Rhys Howells, Network75 Mechanical Engineering Trainee

Rhys Howells, 21, is a third year Network75 student studying the BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering degree at the University of South Wales. Rhys' host company G.O.S. Tool and Engineering Services Ltd (G.O.S.) in Blaenavon is a privately owned market leading company specialising in the manufacture, conversion and supply of road rail equipment.



G.O.S. supplies a range of construction equipment from many leading manufactures including Doosan, Komatsu, Kobelco, JCB and Caterpillar specially converted to work on rail. G.O.S. also design and manufacture a range of ancillary equipment including trailers, trolleys, lifting beams, sleeper laying and handling equipment, grabs and trailer attachments.

### **What has your experience of Network75 been like to date?**

'The Network75 programme has been both enjoyable and beneficial. I am able to combine the knowledge I gain at university with experience gained at G.O.S.; this has been a great way to learn.'

My placement with G.O.S. also provides me with the opportunity to learn and enhance the practical skills required within the industry. One of the many key skills for a Design Engineer is the use of 3D CAD software. I use this on a daily basis throughout my placement. It has enabled me to excel in one of my university modules this year.

### **Have you had the opportunity to work on any interesting projects?**

'Yes, one project in particular involved a modular beam I designed being used on the London Bridge Station upgrade worksite. I designed the beam using CAD plus calculations and FEA stress analysis tests to ensure it was capable of lifting 32 tonnes. I was fortunate enough to travel to London to watch the beam in action in November 2014. Watching it being used with two 250 Kirow Rail Cranes and witnessing it completing three successful switch and crossing assembly lifts was amazing!'

Having your own individual project seems like a daunting task initially but as the project developed so did my confidence and I really enjoyed following it through. The end product was a massive achievement for me.

### **How do you view your employment prospects upon graduating from the Network75 scheme?**

Upon graduating I'll have gained a degree along with five years experience as a Design Engineer. Due to having the right qualifications along with relevant experience there will be many job opportunities available to me and the potential for me to further integrate into the team at G.O.S. I'll also have a head start in terms of working towards more senior positions as well as the prospect of becoming a Chartered Engineer.

## Sarah Liddell, Network75 Accounting & Finance Trainee

Sarah Liddell, 21, is a third year student studying the BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance degree at the University of South Wales. Sarah's host company is Atradius in Cardiff.

Atradius provides trade credit insurance, surety and collections services worldwide through a strategic presence in 50 countries. Atradius has access to credit information on 200 million companies worldwide. Its credit insurance, bonding and collections products help protect companies throughout the world from payment risks associated with selling products and services on trade credit.

### **Why did you choose Network75 over full time study or finding employment after college/sixth form?**

I chose Network75 over full time study/employment as it provided me with the chance to gain a degree whilst getting work experience in my desired career, all debt free, and with the real opportunity to get employment at the end of the course. It also allows me to apply the theoretical knowledge learnt to real situations which is invaluable to aiding my learning. Network75 has not only allowed me to gain experience within my chosen career but it has also enabled me to see the various areas within finance. This has helped me gain an insight into which areas of finance I prefer and would like to pursue a career in after graduation.

### **What does your role with Atradius involve?**

My role within the finance department of Atradius involves allocating payment receipts, invoice processing, weekly payment run preparation, checking and processing of expense claims, and completing month end reconciliations, including reconciling the AR/AP ledgers. My role also involves being responsible for month end fixed asset processing, intercompany transactions, revaluations, and completing journal entries for month end reporting purposes.

### **Any interesting projects/experiences you've had working for Atradius?**

Whilst working for Atradius I have been involved in helping to develop finance processes for the new purchasing system which was recently implemented. It has been interesting to see the new system and how it affects the way accounts payable process the invoices as well as creating ideas for new procedures within finance. I have also been involved within the customer service project team which has been looking at ways to improve customer service. This has allowed me to gain knowledge of other departments and increased my confidence.

### **Does your work placement help with understanding the theory you learn at University?**

My work placement puts the theory learnt at University into practice in a real environment. This helps me to develop an enhanced understanding of the subjects as I can see how the theory is applied rather than just learning it. For instance, in University I learnt about financial reporting including prepayments, but this knowledge was strengthened by completing monthly prepayments for my company.



## Ben Thompson, Network75 Computing Trainee

Ben Thompson, 21, is a third year Network75 student studying the BSc Information Communication Technology degree at the University of South Wales.

Ben's host company, PHS Group, is one of the leading workplace services providers in the UK. Over the last 50 years, PHS has acquired a range of different businesses, and now offers over 250 products, and services to companies both nationwide, and overseas. The company employs more than 5,000 staff members over 140 sites in the UK and Europe.

### Why did you choose the University of South Wales and Network 75?

When I was in sixth form, I knew that I wanted to go to university to further my education. I did lots of research into different courses in different universities including the University of South Wales. Whilst looking on the university's website I came across

the Network75 scheme; the opportunity to study the degree that I really wanted along with gaining 5 years of work experience really appealed to me - this made me decide straight away that this was the university for me!

### What does your role in PHS involve?

I am currently a Junior Business Analyst; this includes producing detailed user requirements documents as well as testing different pieces of software to make sure that they are working as expected before being released to the rest of the business. Since starting at PHS I have worked within a number of different teams and undertaken several roles; this has been fantastic as I've gained so much experience and knowledge in a short space of time.

### Do you have any advice for students considering the Network75 scheme?

The prospect of studying for 5 years may seem like a long time, but it seriously does fly by. It has been a really enjoyable experience, and I'm looking forward to the next 2 years on the scheme.

Each year I have found that I am doing something in work that is really relevant to what I am studying in university. During my second year I studied an IT Service Management module. This module is basically the understanding of how a company should work using ITIL and ISO standards. PHS makes sure every employee has an ITIL qualification and follows the ISO standards as closely as possible. This really helped when I was trying to understand the content of this module as I had practical examples to refer to. I was also able to ask my work colleagues for help when I didn't understand a particular part and their experience was invaluable.

Whilst it is strange thinking that my school friends are graduating while I'm still at university I know that when I graduate will be in a much better position than they are. They all have student debt in excess of £30,000, no relevant work experience, and also have not managed to find employment where as I will have a degree, 5 years of work experience, and no student debt. With the Network75 schemes employability record as well as the money, time, and effort PHS have invested in me throughout the 5 years there is also a very good chance they will offer me employment upon graduating.

I'm really glad I made the decision to apply for the scheme. Knowing what I know after three years on the scheme and the experience I've been given I would still make the same decision to study at the University of South Wales and to complete my degree through Network75.



## Rhys Dobbs, Network75 Electrical and Electronic Engineering Trainee

Rhys Dobbs, 20, is a second year Network75 student studying the BEng (Hons) Electrical & Electronic Engineering degree at the University of South Wales. Rhys' host company Catnic in Caerphilly are the leading UK supplier of steel lintels and building components. Established in 1969 they have over 40 years experience in the design, manufacture, and supply of quality products.

### How did you find out about the Network75 scheme?

I applied for an apprenticeship with an aviation company during year 12, and was lucky enough to be accepted. However, I was advised to finish my A Levels and then apply for Network75 as this would be the best option for me.

### What do you enjoy most about the Network75 scheme?

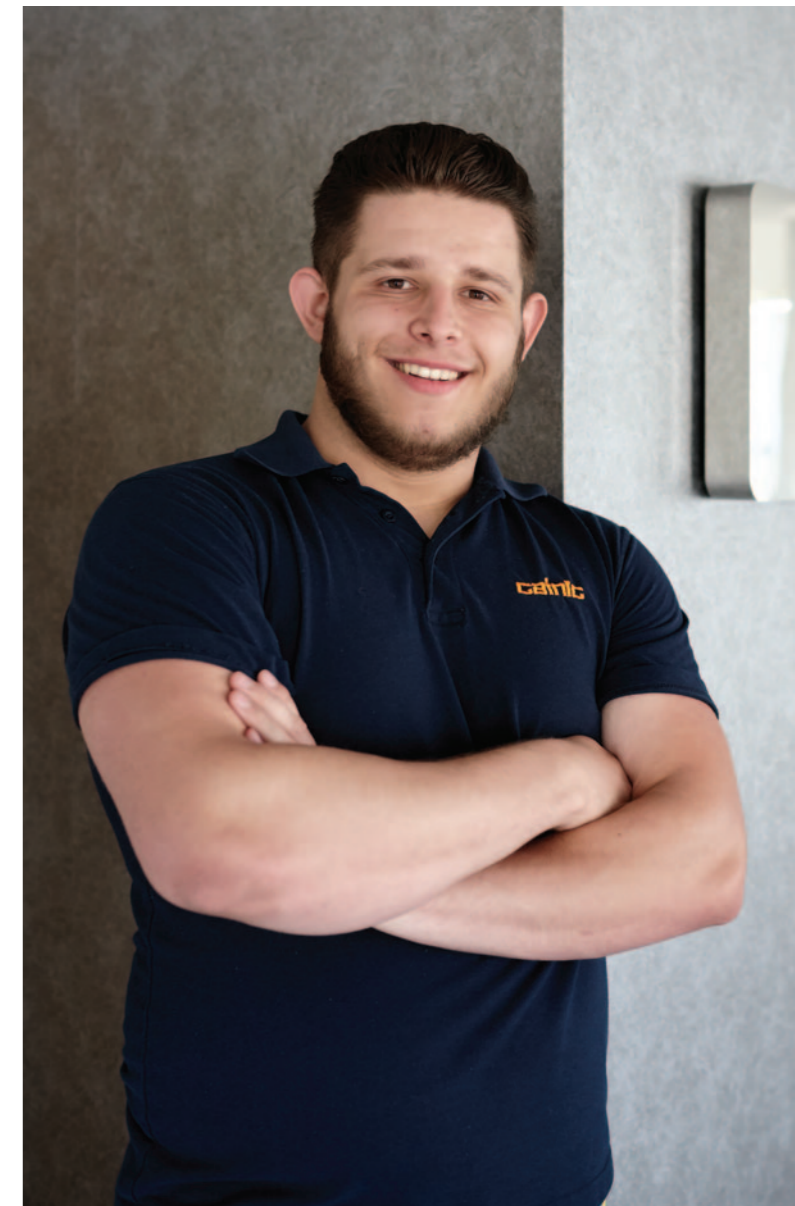
I enjoy being able to take the theory I learn in university into real life situations I experience through my placement with Catnic. It also enhances my learning as I can visualise what is being taught. Network75 gives me a clear advantage over other students, as I have the relevant work experience, which they lack. Everyone can read books and learn, not everyone can put it into practice.

### What task do you undertake in your role as Network75 Trainee at Catnic?

I participate in the plants electrical maintenance. This consists of being called to machine breakdowns, analysing the problem, and fixing the issue quickly. In between breakdowns I work on projects and electrical design. At the moment I'm heavily involved in Catnic's biggest project in 20 years; the introduction of a new production line for a new product. We have many projects within the electrical department, which are normally upgrades to our existing equipment. This requires alterations to the electrical drawings, and planning how we will correctly integrate these into the existing system. Most of the time these upgrades will consist of electrical panel building, in which we would include PLC control and programming. As part of these projects I also organise meetings with companies, request designs/concepts, and obtain quotes. In addition to Electrical Maintenance and project work I am also heavily involved with quality control, this consists of conducting audits, calibration, and updating/creating documents.

### Any advice for a student thinking of applying for Network75?

Be prepared to be busy! It is important to find the right balance between work and university assignments. The course does take up a lot of your time and you will have to complete assignments at home after being at work all day. Although this can be tiring at busy times I know the outcome will be worth it. Remember to make the most of your host company; they are there to help you. Get as much as you can in the form of experience and training courses as they could possibly employ you in the future!



## Rhiannon Sheppard, Network75 Logistics and Supply Chain Management Trainee

Rhiannon Sheppard, 20, is a first year Network75 student studying a BA (Hons) Logistics and Supply Chain Management degree at the University of South Wales. Rhiannon's host company, GE Aviation Wales in Nantgarw, specialises in the overhaul, repair and maintenance of a range of engine product types and associated components. GE Aviation Wales specialises in four engine types including the GE90, the world's most powerful aircraft engine, the GP7200, the engine that powers the new Airbus A380, the Rolls-Royce RB211 and the complete range of CFM56 engines, the world's most popular aircraft engine.



### What has your experience been like so far on Network75?

So far I've had an enjoyable experience on the Network75 programme. I have met lots of new people, both in university and work, which has helped me to build up a good network with my peers and make friends. I've found that the 3:2 split (3 days in work : 2 days in university) has improved my time management skills. It provides the right balance, giving me enough time to complete my university work whilst also keeping up to date with my work placement, ensuring I fulfil my responsibilities.

### How does your degree fit with your role?

My degree course directly relates to the role I undertake at GE Aviation Wales. From what I learn in university, I can then come to work and implement my knowledge which helps me to develop my skills and understanding. I work within the supply chain and manage the movement of material which is what I am studying in detail throughout my degree. I am requested to purchase and expedite aircraft engine hardware as per the operation plan of the business. My daily tasks involve attending meetings to provide updates to the wider team and making/receiving conference calls to aircraft hardware suppliers. I also get involved with data collection and presentation in regards to analysing specific areas of the business relating to my role.

### What do you like best about Network75?

Network75 has given me the opportunity to not only learn, but put this learning into practice in a working environment. The scheme has presented me with many opportunities including social activities with peers in both university and work which have been enjoyable. The experiences from being on this scheme have allowed me to become a more rounded and cultured person. I would definitely recommend applying for the scheme as the support and guidance provided by GE Aviation Wales, Network75 staff and lecturers has been excellent. Network75 is not only financially beneficial as you receive a bursary while you study, but it also helps to make the professional side of the course relevant. When you graduate you are in better stead to gain employment than all your fellow graduates as you have five years relative work experience in your chosen subject.

## Riah Spickett, Network75 Mechanical Engineering Graduate

Riah Spickett, 23, graduated from the Network75 scheme in 2015. Whilst studying the BSc (Hons) Mechanical Engineering degree at the University of South Wales, Riah was placed with GE Aviation Wales in Nantgarw. GE Aviation Wales specialises in the overhaul, repair and maintenance of a range of engine product types and associated components. GE Aviation Wales specialises in four engine types including the GE90, the world's most powerful aircraft engine, the GP7200, the engine that powers the new Airbus A380, the Rolls-Royce RB211, and the complete range of CFM56 engines, the world's most popular aircraft engine.

Riah's role involved working as part of the GE90 Engineering team, specifically the technical vetting of the GE90 Engine Manuals.

### Why did you choose Network75?

I always knew that a work-based training scheme would suit me best, however I also wanted a degree. I was torn between going

to university and undertaking an apprenticeship so the Network75 scheme was ideal for me! It not only offered me the opportunity to gain a degree but also the practical experience I wanted from an apprenticeship. I've had an amazing on-the-job learning experience with GE Aviation Wales whilst obtaining my degree. Through Network75 I've had the best of both worlds!

### What advantages has completing your degree through Network75 given you?

I have obtained both a degree and five years relevant work experience in the industry; having a degree alone isn't enough when competition for jobs is so fierce. I also have no student debt what so ever. Combining my degree with a work placement has enabled me to put the theory I learn in university into practice straight away. My placement experience with GE Aviation Wales has helped support and enhance my learning.

### Would you recommend the Network75 Scheme?

Yes! I always recommend the Network75 scheme to potential students; it really is an amazing route to take. Why wouldn't you take this option? A degree, five years work experience and no student debt leaving university! I've been so fortunate to have this opportunity.



## Demi Niblett, Network75 Logistics and Supply Chain Management Graduate

Demi Niblett, 22, graduated from the Network75 scheme in 2015. Whilst studying the BA (Hons) Logistics and Supply Chain Management degree at the University of South Wales, Demi was placed with Ortho Clinical Diagnostics (OCD) in Bridgend. OCD are a world class manufacturing plant within a global healthcare corporation, committed to providing medical diagnostic products to customers in a cost-effective & timely manner.



### **What role have you taken with OCD in terms of full time employment?**

I am now a full time Logistics Operator. My role consists of stock allocation to various distribution centres which involves making decisions such as which type of freight would be most appropriate based on stock levels, whilst also considering costs. In addition to stock allocation I also deal with Home Office and DEFRA license applications for customs air freight requirements; working with production to agree a plan for manufacturing, and packing as well as continuous improvement within the area around third party shipments and consumable spend.

### **Why did you choose Network75 over full time study or finding employment straight from college/sixth form?**

I was apprehensive to pursue full time study due to the university fees and the potential debt I could get in to and at 18, it did not seem like an option to me to take on such massive debts. I am a practical person rather than a theoretical one, and so would have rather worked my way up through employment; however Network75 allowed me to do both.

### **What advantages do you think you have over students who have studied full time without taking a work placement?**

Although the Network75 route takes 2 years longer than a standard full time degree, you walk away with 5 years of experience within a legitimate and often highly respected company. I have completed my Six Sigma Green Belt qualification whilst at OCD which shows my ability to work to continuous improvement as well as gain cost savings and reductions within different areas of the business. This played a big part in me securing a permanent position within OCD. I've also completed additional training courses such as Lean Training, Health and Safety awareness within Manufacturing and Operational Areas, Known Consignor for Air Freight training as well as having the possibility of CIPS in the future. I would definitely recommend Network75 to potential students; I wouldn't have a degree if this option hadn't been available for me.

**Call: 01443 482 203**  
**Visit: [southwales.ac.uk/network75](http://southwales.ac.uk/network75)**

Information in this brochure is correct at the time of print, but may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, call or check our website: **[www.southwales.ac.uk](http://www.southwales.ac.uk)**

Design: USW Print & Design 01443 482 677

The University of South Wales is a registered charity.  
Registration No. 1140312.