



Land-based Pre-Apprenticeship

Case Studies...hear what our trainees have to say



Peter Hogarth

"Since a young age I have loved farming. I came across Ringlink's Pre-apprenticeship programme and thought it was a perfect way for me to get into the industry. I have already learnt so much, from tractor and forklift driving, working with livestock and learning about first aid. During my placement I am really enjoying working with sheep. The programme has helped me to realise that I would love to become a shepherd in the future."



Iona Finlayson

"I have always loved being outside and have worked on farms since leaving school, but I always lacked confidence in tractor driving.

The Pre-apprenticeship programme has given me the chance to gain more practical skills whilst learning on the job. I have already learnt lots from the programme, mainly how to work properly with tractors. The programme has also helped to increase my self-confidence and given me the ability to trust my own judgement when completing tasks.

I have really enjoyed working with cattle on my placement and would love to continue this work on a full-time basis."

“ One of the best decisions I have ever made ”

Andrew Mackay

"I have always loved working in agriculture and the Pre-apprenticeship programme looked a good way for me to get into the industry. The programme has taught me that there are always new things to learn. I am really enjoying being outside every day and not being stuck in a classroom learning.

After the programme I hope to get a job in the industry as a tractor driver."



Sarah Boyle

"My auntie had a farm in Dumfries and I always enjoyed working alongside her, helping with lambing and watching her shear. I applied for the programme to learn a bit more and get stuck in; I was only lambing and wanted to branch out more.

Working in the mart for my placement has been a different experience for me, I would say I've learned how to be helpful and respect the customers. The team I'm working with have taught me a lot in a short space of time and I'm learning something new every day. I am enjoying seeing the other side of the process as I'm very used to being on a farm and seeing the lambs/sheep go off for sale and not really seeing what happens thereafter."

If you would like more information on our Pre-apprenticeship programme,
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“ A perfect way for me to get into the industry ”

Logan Smith



"I really wanted to work in the industry and had applied for several farms in the area, but they were all looking for more experienced farm workers. I saw the Pre-apprenticeship programme advertised on social media and thought it would be a great way to get into the industry.

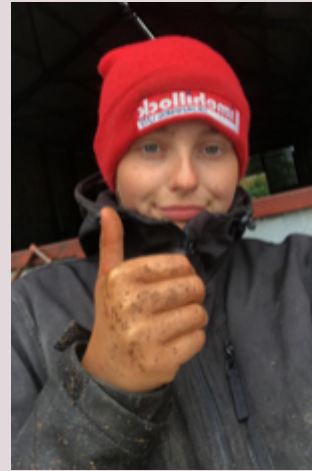
In the 2 months I have been working I have learnt to plough, bale, work the dryers and load lorries. One challenge I have faced is having little experience working with an 8 furrow plough, it took quite some time to get used to. During my placement I have really enjoyed carting the grain from the harvesters. The programme has finally given me the chance to work on farms and I think even after the programme I'll be farming for many years to come."

Callum Naismith

"I am from a farming background but wanted to gain more experience in the industry. The Pre-apprenticeship programme gives you the chance to gain this experience from great mentor businesses.

So far from the programme I have learnt how to manage my time more effectively, how to work in a team and that I need to take my time with tasks to make sure I do a good job. I am really enjoying working with cattle on a daily basis and after the programme I would like to work with cattle and sheep before going home to farm."

Brianna Watson



"When I was younger I used to watch the tractors and combines working away in the field and I knew I wanted to be involved in the industry. I found out about the programme and thought it was a great opportunity to get involved in.

So far, I've learnt so many skills, whether it is doing jobs on the farm such as strimming grass to baling at harvest, or interacting with the public, I have also learnt that safety is key and you always have to be cautious.

Particularly surprising to me was finding out about the heavy work load and how stressful the agricultural industry can be. I really enjoy working outside; I am constantly learning new things each and every day, whilst also building on my farmers tan!

My plan after the programme is hopefully to stay on at my placement, as I am thoroughly enjoying working at a mixed enterprise in my local area."

“ The programme has helped to increase my self-confidence ”





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Lewis Emslie

"I always wanted to work within the agricultural industry because I like working outdoors where every day is different. I applied for the programme as a pathway into the industry, whilst also gaining Lantra skill certificates. During my placement I have learnt how an apprentice can make a big difference to a business, by helping out and taking some stress away from the other employees. I really enjoy the variety of jobs my placement has to offer.

After the programme I would like to try and stick along the lines of wood and outdoor work, with potentially becoming a tree surgeon in the future."

“ I have learnt how an apprentice can make a big difference to a business ”

Nathan MacDonald

"I was attracted to working in the agricultural industry because I have always liked working outdoors and I like the fact that what I am choosing to do is producing great products for the food chain. I chose to apply for the Pre-apprenticeship programme because I have always had an interest in farming and felt it's a great way to get into the industry.

I have learned many things so far, for example how to work with cattle and how to use machinery safely and properly. What I most enjoy is going around the stock and seeing their progress, such as the weight they have put on since I started. In the future I would like to become a shepherd or work with cattle as I am also enjoying this new experience."

“ A pathway into the industry, whilst also gaining Lantra skill certificates ”

Jamie Grant



"Ever since I've been living back in Scotland I have been fascinated with farming life and knew I wanted to get into Agriculture.

The Pre-apprenticeship programme was the best way to get my foot in the door and earn money while learning.

Something I've learned from working at my placement is no matter how well experienced your boss is, or how organised they are, your boss really does appreciate you being there as it is always easier with a second pair of hands. One challenge during my placement has been trying to get my body clock used to working night shift; it has been a big change! What I am enjoying the most is being left to get on with my work; I am not being watched like a hawk. However, I know if I do not understand something, or I can't work a machine there is always someone available to ask.

My plans for after the programme is hopefully to stay on with my placement. I would also plan to get myself some more training certificates. Perhaps one day I might even work on a mixed farm."

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Craig Byrne

"I chose the agricultural industry as a career because I grew up helping family friends on their farm. Although many of my family and friends tried to discourage me from entering the industry due to the long, unsociable hours and back breaking work, I pursued it anyway as it was what I wanted to do as I wanted a career with purpose, goals and ambition.

I started my pre-apprenticeship in January when I went to SRUC Aberdeen for my induction training. I learned skills that are transferable to any industry such as first aid training, welding, manual handling and of course tractor driving. During the induction at Craibstone campus, we attended numerous industry visits which included Benzies – this is a large agri-business that specialises in carrots and potatoes. We also visited an abattoir that processes beef and lamb for many of the popular supermarkets. This visit was one that I learnt the most from, as in the future I would like to have my own flock of ewes producing ethical, grass fed lamb.

When my pre-apprenticeship ends in August I am going to study agriculture at SRUC with my plan being to work my way up to the honours degree."

“ In the induction I learnt skills that are transferable to any industry ”

Ewan Hodgson



"I applied for the programme because I think it will provide me with a good set of skills to take into my future career. I have learnt a lot so far such as: how to drive a tractor and forklift, how to manage livestock, how to carry out fencing and dyking and about managing feed for livestock.

I have really enjoyed driving the machinery and working with cattle. After the programme I would like to go into either forestry or machinery work."

Rhiannon Cunningham



"I wanted to work in agriculture as I enjoyed the work with animals that I was doing but wanted to experience working with machinery and gain other skills. I applied for the programme as I was doing work experience at my placement prior to this and they suggested it to me.

What I have learnt from the programme so far is how to operate machinery in a way that is safe for myself and others. A challenge that I have faced is reversing a tractor with a trailer on the back, however I am sure it will come with practice.

I am really enjoying the variety of things I am doing, I can go from fencing to dosing sheep to moving cattle all the in the same day. After the programme I hope to gain more experience in the industry."

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