

Kayleigh Vaughan Davies



Hi! My name is Kayleigh Vaughan Davies and I am currently into my sixth month working as a graduate at Tarmac Ltd. I work within the Cement and Lime logistics and supply chain department. I know – what is that? I hear you thinking. So firstly, Cement and Lime simply means I work in the section of the business that produces and supplies two products – Cement and Lime. However, the most interesting and important part of my job title is that I work in Logistics. This is the department that ensures that the products (Cement and Lime!) get where they are supposed to, at the right time, in the correct quantity and at a perfect quality too.

For my business this means moving the cement and lime from where it is produced to the customer. There are a number of steps involved in this. So, a quick overview..... firstly the cement is produced in a location, for my business that is from 3 locations in the UK as well as the Republic of Ireland and Spain. The cement then has to be moved into a truck for delivery to the customer. Sometimes, the customer might be near to where the cement has been made, in this case, the truck can fill up with cement and head straight to the customer. However, it gets a little more complicated if the customer is further away from the place of production. In this case, the cement is put on a train, or if its made in Ireland and Spain onto a boat, where it is taken to a depot. A depot is a location where cement is held, normally in massive storage spaces called silos that hold hundreds, or even thousands of tonnes of cement. From here, trucks are filled and sent to the customers nearby. By having depots all over the country, we can make sure that the amount of road miles that we travel is reduced - for long distance journeys we use less polluting transport methods such as rail and boat!

Now my job as a graduate! So far I have been involved in lots of sections of the business to help me learn as much as I can in the next 2 years before I get a full time job with the company, hopefully as a manager. This has been a very exciting experience. I have worked in a depot with a depot supervisor helping to maintain the depot. This is important to ensure that the equipment works properly so that the customers can be delivered to on time but also so that their product is at the best quality. I have also worked on a project to look at the best ways to supply cement to customers in London. As I am sure you know London is a busy place, with lots of traffic so we wanted to be sure that the depots we were using were being utilised in the most cost effective, and pollution reducing way as possible. Next, I am going to be working on a project to make sure that all of the sites and depots in the UK are being safe, and that health and safety is being communicated correctly to everyone in the business. This is very important, especially with dangerous products that could harm people. This is also extremely pertinent if you consider that we send out hundreds of trucks a day weighing up to 44 tonnes onto the roads that you and I (the public) use - we need to know that the vehicles are safe, and they are being driven in a safe way.

To get into the position that I am in I completed a 4 year degree at The University of Leeds in BA Geography with Transport Planning. I really enjoyed my degree and it taught me a lot about myself as well as giving me a basic understanding of the logistics industry. However, in all honesty, I think I learnt the most during my third year at University where I undertook an industrial placement for 12 months at a car manufacturer in the North East of England. Here I worked as a material controller – I ordered raw materials to a factory for production. However, the factory worked Just-In-Time, this meant that very little stock was held – so the products I ordered had to arrive just before they were needed. If they were late, production in the factory stopped and we lost LOTS of money. I loved

working in this fast paced environment, it kept me on my toes, every day was different and I got to talk to people all over the world every day.

And that is what I love about my job, I am rarely in the same office for more than a week, so I get to see the whole of the country. The job is busy, which some people might find stressful but I find it keeps me thinking and makes me constantly generate new ideas all the time. I also learnt on my year in industry that I hate being stuck in an office. My job is perfect for anyone that doesn't mind being in an office but also loves getting out and about, sometimes getting a bit mucky and generally is a hands on kind of person that is creative and loves talking to other people.

All in all I love working in logistics because I really enjoy speaking to lots of different people, from different backgrounds from across the world on a daily basis. The fast paced environment means that no day is the same and I get to think of new creative ways of doing things better all of the time and see my ideas come to fruition. I really love getting out and about, doing some "hard graft" outdoors and sometimes, getting mucky. Every day when I get home I know that I have worked hard and people's lives have been positively impacted by the work I have done. Whether that's ensuring a customer got their cement so that someone could build a new drive in their home, or if its making sure that our drivers safe on our public roads.