



# Arron Rodger – Torbay Development Agency Business and Administration

**22-year-old Arron from Torbay, Devon, has found success and ambition in a career he'd never previously considered.**



**Name: Arron Rodger**

**Location: Torbay**

**Framework: Business and Administration**

When Arron Rodger left school, working as an administrator wasn't the first career choice on his mind. Instead he trained as a painter and decorator at college.

But finding work during the recession proved difficult and Arron soon found himself unemployed and looking for other opportunities.

"I enquired about work experience at the Jobcentre and they put me in contact with Torbay Development Agency (TDA), a company that supports the local council with its economic plans," Arron explains.

**Brought to you by  
National  
Apprenticeship  
Service**

"It sounded like a great opportunity for me to try something different." Arron was not long into his work experience when the agency suggested he apply for a vacancy as an apprentice.

#### **Hard work pays off**

"I had to fill in an application form, and, after a successful interview, I started my Advanced Apprenticeship in Business and Administration in September 2012," says Arron.

"It's not an area of work I had ever considered before but now that I'm here, I can't imagine doing anything else."

As an apprentice, Arron is supporting colleagues in the Economy, Investment and Enterprise Development Team and there's a huge variety in his daily tasks.

"I arrange meetings, help to organise events, update our website, and carry out administration for the various projects the department is involved in," Arron explained.

Organising events is one of Arron's favourite tasks. "I recently helped organise a conference for 500 delegates and it was very exciting to see my hard work paying off and the event being a success."

#### **Succeeding against the odds**

As well as working in the office, Arron studies for his Level 3 NVQ in

Business and Administration with Paignton Sec Training Centre. He is due to complete his Apprenticeship in January 2014, eight months sooner than he initially expected.

It's an impressive achievement, especially as Arron had to take two months off when his son was suddenly taken ill.

"My employers were very supportive and I'm really proud to have bounced back so quickly to complete my Apprenticeship ahead of schedule."

His employers are pleased with Arron's progress too and nominated him for the category of 'learning against the odds' in the annual South Devon Skills Awards, which he won.

Arron is confident that he'll stay at the TDA once he completes his Apprenticeship. "Hopefully I will start a permanent job as an Office Assistant.

I would also like to do some more training. I'm thinking that customer service is where my strength lies, but business development is also an area I'd like to get into."

To find out more about Apprenticeship opportunities, please contact the National Apprenticeship Service on 08000 150 600 or visit the website [apprenticeships.org.uk](http://apprenticeships.org.uk)