**First Completion of the TPS Professional Development Scheme**



Rob Davies, a transport planner with Atkins in Birmingham, is the first to complete the Transport Planning Society’s Professional Development Scheme, and to be awarded a Certificate of PDS Completion.

Rob joined Atkins in 2008 with a degree in Geography from Durham and has been involved in a wide variety of projects, while developing a particular expertise in highway and traffic modelling and assessment, including post-opening scheme analysis for the Highways Agency under its POPE programme.

On being told that he had satisfied all the PDS requirements Rob said

I am delighted to have achieved completion of the PDS. This has been a challenging but also a very rewarding process; encouraging me to take on several different types of projects within the Atkins transport planning team, enabling me to obtain a wide ranging but also detailed knowledge of the industry which I feel will be invaluable for my future career development. A key focus of the Scheme is developing an individual’s appreciation for the ‘bigger picture’, understanding the need for technical work to be ‘suitable for purpose’ to enable decision makers to make informed, justifiable choices in social, economic and environmental contexts. Having completed the scheme, I now feel ready to begin to adopt a more focused approach to my career development in my role as project manager for several transport modelling projects. I am also keen to work towards obtaining the TPP qualification in the not too distant future whilst also becoming a mentor for new graduates in Atkins.

The award of the Society’s Certificate of PDS Completion requires the trainee to meet with and make a presentation to one of the Society’s external PDS Reviewers. The Reviewer assesses the trainee’s PDS records and identifies any shortcomings, which have to addressed before they are awarded the Certificate.

Rob would strongly encourage anyone starting their career as a transport planner to follow the PDS, explaining that

by requiring transport planners to engage with several different types of work, the Scheme enables you to appreciate which areas of the industry best suit your interests and capabilities, helping you to decide where you want to go with your career in transport planning. The structure of the Scheme also seeks to develop technical, project management and commercial awareness, all of which I feel are vital in order to become a ‘complete’ transport planner.

Responding to Rob’s success, Atkins’ Training Manager for Highways and Transportation, Christine Crossley explained that

Atkins staff are encouraged to demonstrate that they have the competences to be experts in their field by becoming professionally qualified, and the TPS PDS provides a clear path for those who have chosen a career in transport planning. The Scheme is designed to ensure that graduates gain knowledge, experience and proficiency across a broad range of transport planning topics as well as in generic skills. On completion, they will have the competence to manage projects and be well placed to progress towards obtaining the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) Qualification. At Atkins, we believe that developing a highly skilled and adaptable workforce is key to the delivery of excellent projects for our clients – building confidence and satisfaction in our service delivery.

Martin Richards, the Society’ Director for Skills, said that as Atkins were the first organisation to adopt the PDS after its launch in 2008, and with 33 trainees now on it, it is particularly pleasing that one of their staff should be the first to complete the Scheme.

Further information is available from Martin Richards

Director for Skills

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