

Comments about the British Airways Experience

"I first decided that I wanted to be involved in the aviation industry when I was 10 years old when I was watching a helicopter search and rescue programme and I researched how I could get there, what courses and pathways I could take to become a helicopter pilot. However, my decision changed shortly after when I was on my return journey home from Turkey with my family when an Air Hostess came to find me on the plane on our descent asking for me.

Turns out that my Grandparent's had listened to me talking and talking about how someday I wanted to fulfil my dream in the left-hand seat! So, they had written a letter asking if I was able to visit the flight deck once we had landed and meet the pilot's. I was overjoyed! From the moment I set foot onto the flight deck I immediately knew that I wanted to have a career as a commercial pilot.

But what airline? It didn't take me long to decide as I knew about the extremely wonderful 'To Fly , To Serve' airline, British Airways. I had been on their website and seen all of the thousands of facts and work they do within the company: from expanding their route destinations to charity work and so many other amazing opportunities the company could grab. On a regular basis I would watch videos of British Airways giving tours and detailed explanations around their new aircraft fleets and the manufacturing behind it. I then found out about the work experience placement and it got me straight away that I had to apply and get involved somehow.

I would truly recommend British Airways as a work experience placement due to the kind staff and mentors that guided me each day and the amazing sights and facts you would never know about the airport.

Throughout the week I had a superb time and the airport was a great plane spotting destination! Although, my highlight of the week must have been on my second day when I had a funny, interesting mentor, Neil. He knew so much about the airline and taught me so much about the famous airport too. I also taught him a few facts about how to become a pilot! Within the day Neil encountered how excited I was to become a pilot and was desperate to get me onboard. In the afternoon I was able to sit in the left-hand seat and meet a newly qualified pilot in an A320 who told me to work hard at school and never give up on something you really want in life and I believe him because it will all pay off one day as I cannot see myself doing anything else! In addition to my school and education, being in a real working environment and seeing what an airport environment is like, it has taught me that it's not easy and if you really want something you have to fight for it and work hard.

Ever since I returned back to school, without hesitation I missed being at Heathrow but knew in my mind that if I wanted to work for British Airways someday I would need to work my way there as it is a slow and steady progress to success."

Amy Charlton

Heathrow Customer Service Work Experience Student

“I wanted to do work experience at British Airways because BA is one of the elite airlines with one of the biggest fleets, so what better place to gain an insight? There were so many departments to choose from which made me realise how accommodating BA was and how much they were offering for students.

I spent a week at BACE, and during this time I gained hands on experience with aircraft components. I was able to learn about the functionalities, fault finding and how to amend the problem. I found this extremely fascinating, which made me wonder what it would be like to do it on a day to day basis. Being around engineers, learning and understanding their work ethic encouraged me to want to become part of such an environment. I was explained the vast career opportunities offered and this appealed to me.

Doing work experience within BA somewhat helped gain the apprenticeship, as it displayed that I had an interest to be in the company, I was able to talk about my experience during my interview. Expressing what I had learnt and the skills I had gained.

Since joining the Engineering Apprenticeship, I love learning new things day by day. There are many challenges I face during my time at work, but once I overcome them there is a great sense of achievement. I am also able to enhance my hand skills on a day to day basis, and the more a job gets done the easier it gets.

I would say that work experience is important, try and do as much as you can. Whether it be a week with a company or just once a week at a local garage. Do as much research as you can, find out about the company, to show you have the passion to become part of it. If things don't go the way you expect them to, don't be disheartened, and use it as motivation. Face challenges head on and ask as many questions as you can to a varied group of individuals.”

Balwant Sehra

Former BACE Work Experience Student &
Aircraft Appearance Apprentice at British Airways

“Work experience at British Airways stood out to me as an intriguing opportunity in an exciting and unique environment. I have also developed a great interest in the British Airways Graduate Training Scheme and I felt this would give me a great insight into the company.

My favourite part was definitely working within the community of British Airways - It felt like a large family! It has made me even more determined to continue on the graduate training scheme.

I feel that working in a customer service role has not only improved my social skills but has increased my confidence.”

Alex Lloyd-Mostyn

Heathrow Customer Service Work Experience Student

“I wanted to do work experience at British Airways because they are one of the world’s leading airlines that carry out their own engineering. They also have a wide range of maintenance that they carry out on their aircraft and the different engineering workshops.

When I was on work experience I got a real insight to how an airline is run and the different opportunities that are offered to you as an employee for British Airways. Also, it showed me that I really enjoyed the type of work that I wanted to do for a career.

I think my placement did help me get into an apprenticeship because it gave me an insight to the company that I was applying for and what they expected of you as an employee. Also, I was lucky enough to have the person I worked with carrying out my interview for my apprenticeships.

Since joining Engineering Apprenticeship, I have passion for my day to day job as an aircraft maintenance apprentice. Also, there are no two days the same, you walk into work and you are faced with different challenges each day.

For other students, I would say try to get as much work experience as possible in the area that you want to work. This is because you can build up a good picture to see what it is like and whether you would like to pursue the job as a career.”

Max Rann

Former BACE Work Experience Student &
Aircraft Maintenance Apprentice at British Airways

"I chose British Airways as my work experience placement, as I felt it could not only help me learn new skills for the future but for future job opportunities and it is also an outstanding company with amazing customer service.

My favourite part of work experience at British Airways was being able to check passengers in, it helped me gain confidence and communication skills. It also helped me get a feel of what it's like to actually work at the airport.

Work Experience at British Airways has changed my view on my career as it had made me realise what career path I want to lead, which is Cabin Crew as it allows you the opportunity to travel all different places around the world.

Work experience has helped me so much with my studies, in college we have to do a range of different units and by doing work experience it made me complete that unit."

Nicole Davis

Heathrow Customer Service Work Experience Student

“I wanted to do work experience at British Airways because I have passion for airlines and since British Airways is such a tremendous airline I wanted to get a taste of what it’s like to be working in a massive regulated and professional work environment.

I deeply enjoyed my work experience, so much that I made friends with my mentors. It was my great pleasure to be part of such a wonderful team for a week which boosted my confidence and hence I applied for the Customer Service position. In addition, knowing that the company has reputation of being very diverse and successful, I also came to know the endless opportunities for my career.

Having such a great experience during my training and working with various departments, helped me learn new skills which then made me perform my best. As I could perform and was comfortable with the working environment, my work experience certainly helped me choosing my next career move in BA.

Since joining Ground Operations role, I love being part of the team as I enjoy team work. Most of the tasks are very time critical and I like the challenge as it helps me make my punctuality better. The current role also enhanced my knowledge of the airline business which enabled me to explore further opportunities within the company.

My Only advice for students would be if you are unsure which path to take then it’s better to have a feel of the department/industry/role, etc. Having experience in various industries, I chose this industry as it is fun and you would not realise how quickly your time flies by when you’re enjoying your work. Try to always be positive and you will be amazed how many relationships you can build with that positive energy. Good luck.”

Jaspreet Singh

Former Heathrow Customer Services work experience student &
Ground Operations Agent

"I have chosen British Airways for my work experience to get a better understanding of how the company operates, to gain new knowledge and to see how the company looks from a worker's perspective.

My favourite part of work experience was going airside as I had a chance to help other passengers go in the right directions and to see how everything looks from a different perspective. I was even able to check passengers in for their connecting flights. It was amazing.

Work experience has had a massive impact on the choice of my future career as I am really passionate about how companies develop and what strategies they use. I believe that one day I will be able to come back to British Airways and to work in a fast economically changing company.

Work experience has allowed me to expand knowledge in my economic and business career studies as I was able to choose and write about appropriate topics in my assignments."

Angelika Lesniewska

HCS Work Experience student

“Apart from a few other companies, British Airways stood out in their variety of options for their work experience students. They also made it very easy to apply and the interview process was brilliant especially as everyone was very friendly, and this definitely eased my nerves.

Unlike other companies, British Airways also offers unique placements in the department of engineering. This was, for me, a great opportunity to see what the future would hold, should I go on to study engineering or an engineering apprenticeship, hopefully with British Airways.

I really enjoyed working in the test labs as I got to see how the generators are tested. It was great seeing an IDG generator, which I had previously been working on with a mentor, in full action, knowing that we had correctly fixed it.

Also, I really enjoyed talking to the engineers as they were all very friendly, willing to help and answer questions I had. This really gave me an insight in working environment at BA. Not to mention, I really enjoyed the Comic Relief Day with a mini golf course made with scrap airplane parts.

The placement at British Airways gave me a unique view into the working world at British Airways Component Engineering (BACE) as well as British Airways itself. It hasn't necessarily changed my view on my career as I would still like to pursue the dream of becoming a pilot or engineer, but it has given me a clearer insight into the future. I am very grateful that I have been able to do a week's work experience placement at British Airways.

As we currently do not have engineering as a subject, I am not able to show off my newly learnt skills but I do like showing off that I was able to do a work experience placement with such a big, world renowned airline. My friends are all very jealous. On the other hand, I am able to use some skills I learnt such as wire soldering and wire locking.

Every time I now step on a British Airways aircraft, I always tell my family that there is a possibility that I have worked on a part of that plane. That's the stage where they all break out in panic, so I have to ensure them that I worked alongside a fully qualified engineer and that it has passed rigorous testing as well.”

Max Robertson

BACE Work Experience Student