

## Case Study

Michael Gower, Laboratory Technician  
Advanced Level Apprenticeship – Level 3  
Eisai Manufacturing Ltd (EML)



### What made you decide on an Apprenticeship?

I have always been interested in science; I did well in this subject academically compared to other subjects. Therefore an Apprenticeship appealed to me more than going to university due to the range of opportunities that are offered and I didn't feel that the cost of going to university would benefit me in the long term.

### Why Eisai?

Out of all of the apprenticeships that I applied for, this one stood out the most for different reasons. Firstly Eisai is a global company which allows me to meet and interact with people from different backgrounds and contribute to a global scale. Eisai puts patients first and is committed to making contributions to better healthcare which was a big factor when applying for this apprenticeship.

### Tell us about your role and apprenticeship

With this apprenticeship my role is very important in quality control, as I test different incoming materials to make sure they meet specifications. My apprenticeship consists of two different aspects. Firstly, on the job learning; testing different packaging components and raw materials, using different equipment in the laboratory such as disintegration baths and muffle furnaces and learning different swabbing techniques.

Secondly, a tutor from an external training provider comes to site every 6 weeks, for 3 days to teach about different units. The units assigned are relevant to the apprenticeship. For example as I am a quality control laboratory apprentice, my units are more chemistry-based as I am working in a laboratory. During these 3 days, different assignments with strict deadlines are set based on the topics learnt.

### What sort of work are you doing day to day?

I regularly test packaging components and raw materials; an email is sent to notify and provide the associated paperwork and states that samples are ready for collection from the warehouse. I also take care of the bagged waste in the laboratory. This involves cable tying all bags, putting them in the waste trolley and taking them to the bins outside R&D. We note many bags of each type of waste we dispose of, and dispatch a waste removal form. The amount of each type of bag needs to match the amount recorded on the waste removal form so they can be collected by external waste collectors.

### What are the benefits of this route?

With an apprenticeship I am learning all the time, whilst gaining valuable experience in the work environment. The work I am doing is more meaningful as I am working for an actual company. It's not always guaranteed that everyone can get jobs after going to university; apprenticeships are becoming more and more popular and employers are now looking at experience more than the grades.

*Eisai is a leading global research and development-based pharmaceutical company headquartered in Japan. With over 10,000 employees working across its global network of R&D facilities, manufacturing sites and marketing subsidiaries, Eisai strives to realise its human health care philosophy by delivering innovative products in therapeutic areas with high unmet medical needs, including oncology and neurology.*

Eisai is a member of the Science Industry Partnership which works in partnership with government to establish the skills needed to build a high value, competent scientific workforce