

At Finmeccanica - Selex ES, we offer week long, work experience placements to 15-18 year-olds who show an interest and an aptitude in science and engineering. We take students from a number of schools in the local area, and during the 2013-14 academic year, we provided 85 work experience placements at our Luton site alone.

Our approach to work experience is one of a series of inter-linked projects that challenge students to design, build and test an electronic product to meet a set of customer requirements. This allows students to experience the processes involved in engineering, tailored to suit their current level of study, and resulting in the creation of a product that they can take home.

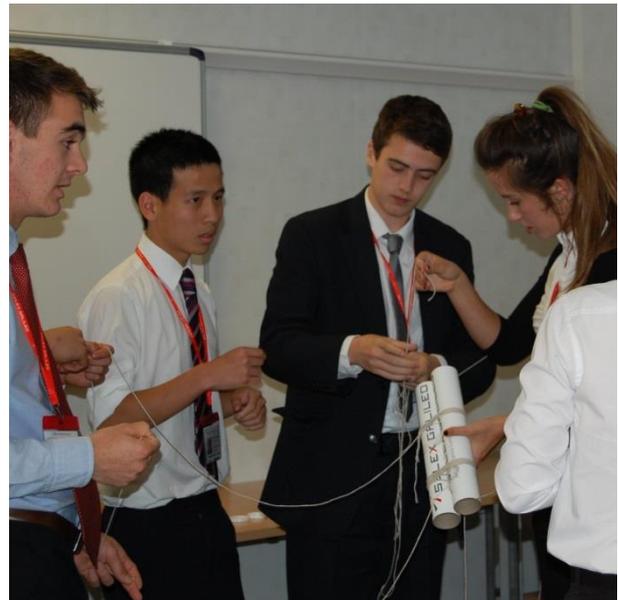
These projects cover both the theoretical and practical aspects of five different engineering disciplines, and include PCB design, materials analysis and programming, mirroring activities carried out by our engineers on a daily basis. Although each of these activities focuses on a different engineering discipline, the week as a whole shows how they are all vital contributors to creating an end product; requiring a common skillset extending from technical expertise to teamworking and communication.



Through this integrated programme, we've made work experience more engaging, interesting and have been able to demonstrate the breadth and depth of engineering within our company:

*"Each day presented us with real tasks and objectives that gave us an insight into the many facets of engineering. I could not have asked for a more enjoyable and enlightening week"*

*"I found it a really great opportunity to find out the different types of jobs people with engineering degrees can go into and I was amazed by the breadth of jobs in just one company".*



Placements such as these are a great way to promote the exciting opportunities within engineering and to encourage students to take STEM subjects for A-level, pursue an apprenticeship or to read an engineering degree at university. From a company perspective, they also provide a good opportunity to identify the talented engineers of the future and to create partnerships within our local community.