

Luke Bearpark

BTEC Level 3 in Travel and Tourism

Current Position: British Airways Cabin Crew



Winner of the BTEC Hospitality, Travel and Tourism Student of the Year 2019, Luke Bearpark hails from Exeter College, where his programme leader, Joanne Watkins, describes him as a 'shining example of vocational excellence.' Luke's flawless success in his studies – and the fact that he has subsequently managed to land himself (no pun intended) a dream job with British Airways – reflects what can happen when passionate people and excellent training combine.

It's rare to find somebody who constantly gives the best of themselves and consistently goes above and beyond what is expected, but Luke is the embodiment of this. "When it comes to work towards the course, I set myself the highest standards I can. Anything less than Distinction is not good enough!" he says, going on to explain: "For me, college is not just about learning, it is about developing as a person and helping others to do the same because after all, we are all there because we have chosen to be." With 100% attendance in spite of a two-hour commute to college, Luke's enthusiasm, engagement and can-do attitude shine through everything he does, including his work placements. Joanne tells us: "When visiting the Virgin Atlantic Base he stunned the Virgin staff with his professionalism and knowledge."

Joanne, describes Luke as a role model for other students, not only because of his dedication to the course but because of the additional volunteer responsibilities he takes on both with and outside the college. As a Student Teaching Ambassador, Luke was part of a cross-college project to improve teaching and learning by observing lessons within different faculties to facilitate the sharing of ideas that could improve

teaching and learning and enhance the student experience. In addition to this, Luke attended student voice meetings as a peer representative, gave his time to promoting the Travel and Tourism department at open events, and visited schools in the community to talk about college life and promote his BTEC vocational experience. In addition to all of this, Luke somehow manages to squeeze in volunteering with St. John's Ambulance and as a Youth Team Leader at a local Youth Centre, for which he won the Dorset Award for Young People.

Luke says: "Choosing BTEC Travel and Tourism was the natural choice for me. For as long as I can remember, my only real career interest was to work within the Travel industry. I absolutely love my course at college, not only because I have always had a genuine passion for aviation, travel and tourism but also because of the fantastic people involved with it.

"I have successfully secured airline employment with British Airways as International Cabin Crew. There is absolutely no way I would have been able to do this without my BTEC course! It has prepared me in so many different ways for life outside of education as well as life within the ever-changing Travel and Tourism industry."

This interview took place July 2019.

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