

# Bring IT On News

8 March, 2019

## International Women's Day

### Louise Hull - Administrative Services Team Leader/Apprentice Programme Manager - Fujitsu



#### What has been your favourite job to date and why?

When I was 22 I went travelling with a friend and worked on a Kibbutz in Israel for 6 months as a volunteer. This was very exciting for me because I was able to do jobs that I had never done before and probably will never do again. This included working in the vineyards, cotton fields and olive groves, making and packing glue, egg chef and kitchen hand and I even learned how to drive a tractor! Doing this taught me that we can learn new things and with practice, support and determination we can do anything we want to.

#### Best piece of advice you have received?

*'Believe in yourself and have confidence in your abilities.'*

#### What are your top tips for getting into the IT industry?

As I am so involved with working with apprentices I see this as an excellent way for young people to start their IT career. With determination and a willingness to learn apprentices have succeeded by earning and learning at the same time. This is in my opinion an excellent start however I believe that if you are determined you will find your way into the IT industry no matter what age. Seek advice from others working in the IT industry and also get some careers advice.

#### Tell us a bit about your current job role?

I have worked in Fujitsu for almost 25 years and I am currently an Admin Services Team Leader remotely managing 12 administration staff and apprentices throughout UK. My staff provide support to many areas of the business according to demand. Services include change management, database management, finance, reporting, SharePoint, resource, mailbox and order processing administration tasks using a variety of Microsoft software and Fujitsu systems.

In addition to this I am the Apprentice Programme Manager for Fujitsu NI. I co-ordinate the programme in NI which requires involvement in the recruitment and selection process, liaison with College staff and Fujitsu Managers regarding Apprentice learning requirements and individual progress as well as a support contact for all apprentices. I am a member of Fujitsu's Apprentice Academy Board which manages and supports the apprentice programmes throughout the UK.

#### What does a normal day look like in your job?

Every day is different in my role. My management role requires me to recruit, support, train and manage employees with various skills who carry out different tasks for a range of customer accounts. I deal with escalations, absence recording, personnel issues, appraisals and all things management based. My apprentice management role requires me to co-ordinate the apprentice programme for NI. I work closely with the apprentices providing opportunities for them to get as much experience as they can while working for Fujitsu. This includes organising additional training, planning visits to various departments within our business and arranging for apprentices to take part in careers fairs, attend school visits and a range of other events that will enable them to gain presentation and networking skills.

#### What is your job?

I had the pleasure of working in a sweet shop for about 2 years from the age of 15 after many attempts of persuading the owner that I was old enough and really wanting a job there! Let's just say, I still have a sweet tooth.

#### What was your favourite subject at school?

I had an excellent typing teacher who encouraged me to pass my exams and get to the next level with each pass. I enjoyed the challenge of typing to music and not getting my fingers stuck between the keys of the old typewriters! This skill has stayed with me throughout my career and has been very useful while working in an IT industry.

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**IT is such a fast moving industry, are there any jobs/roles that don't exist now that you are excited to see in the future?**

The world and IT is changing at a fast pace so it's mind blowing to think about what exciting opportunities there will be in the future. At Fujitsu people are at the heart of our business and changing their lives for the better using technology is extremely important. For me the ability to be able to work in a company that is innovative in creating systems that will save lives is one to be proud of and I believe that the youth of today will have the imagination to take this to a level we have yet to experience.

**Who is your role model and why?**

I don't have a specific role model however different people have enlightened me and my experiences in various ways.

My father encouraged me and my 3 sisters to be independent women. He taught me skills that have benefited me throughout my life including DIY, decorating and how to

look after my car. These life skills have given me the mind-set that I can attempt to do anything I put my mind to.

I also admire the passion of David Attenborough's work when he inspires people about what is beyond our imagination in our world that exists if we only look.

I am motivated by anyone who believes that we can do what we want to do and admire the bravery of the ladies who were suffragettes who went to extremes to fight for what they believed in.

**What would you say to a young female who is contemplating pursuing a career in IT?**

There is such a huge variety of IT roles that anyone can do. My recommendation is to explore the possibilities, network, and look for a role that best fits best your skills and interests. You can start anywhere and find your way throughout an IT industry, it just takes you to make the first step.



Software Development  
Higher Apprentice

“ Fujitsu really encourages new employees to develop their skills and knowledge. ”

*Above: Sara Gillespie - Fujitsu Higher Apprentice - Software Development. Quote taken from the Fujitsu website. Please see the link for more information- <https://www.fujitsu.com/emeia/about/local/jobs/early-careers/apprentices>*

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