

Matthew Bethune, Certificate III in Engineering (Civil)



In 2012 I decided to defer my course of a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Infrastructure)/ Bachelor of Business (Management) at RMIT and have a gap year to save up for university as well as having a break from study.

While thinking of where I could work, an opportunity came up at a local firm EDM Group for a gap year program for civil engineering. The position is to provide future civil

engineering students with an insight and hands on experience for what they may undertake in the future.

I applied for the position, as I was keen to know more about civil engineering and see if it was the pathway for me. I was fortunate enough to receive the position and I started in early February, working Monday to Friday every week for approximately one year. I also worked on weekends at Bakers Delight in the Wodonga Plaza to help earn more money.

While working at EDM Group I undertook a variety of different tasks. These included working with Autocad to draft plans and make alterations, preparing excel spreadsheets for progress claims and schedules of quantities, dealing with authorities such as North East Water and Councils as well as clients. I also went out onsite with the surveyors using all the fancy equipment. I even got to work on some of my own projects while being guided along the way by my colleagues.

Now I'm at RMIT and studying civil engineering and I can say that without a doubt my experience gained at EDM Group was so enlightening that I can think about tasks and the why and how things work.

A project I currently have is called the Engineers Without Borders Challenge where I have to come up with a solution to weatherproof the homes within a village in Nepal. Straight away I was able to think of solutions that no-one else in my group could imagine as I was thinking back to when I was involved in the creation of subdivisions during my time with EDM Group.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my time off and have also loved my course. If you are considering pursuing a career in civil engineering please do look at the position at EDM Group. It comes up around October/November every year and I'm sure if you tell Sandie that you are interested in civil engineering that she will pass on the information to you as that is how I found out.

