



Boeing Defence UK

Damien Plummer

TCHC

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Your workshop was inspirational: it was all your advice on CV writing etc, that allowed me to impress at a competency-based interview and be offered the position 2 days before the official date!

Damien Plummer
Data Assistant, Network Rail

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Project: Skills Support for Redundancy

Business Sector: Defence

Location: Bedfordshire

Job Outcome: Fixed term contract with Network Rail

Boeing Defence UK is a military engineering company which supplies equipment and weapons to the British Armed Forces. It has close links to the Ministry of Defence and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The company employed 800 people in total and operated at RAF Stanbridge, in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. However, due to public sector cuts, and withdrawals from foreign wars, the Armed Forces were being scaled back. Subsequently, the company found it difficult to continue in the economic climate and as a result began to make redundancies.

One BDUK employee facing the possibility of redundancy was Damien Plummer. He heard about TCHC's Skills Support for Redundancy programme, which is financed by the Skills Funding Agency and the European Social Fund, through his Jobcentre Plus adviser. He had spent the last twenty years in the civil service, so applying for jobs, and writing CVs and covering letters, was new to him.

He soon discovered that TCHC would be able to provide him with the assistance he needed to find work. The Skills Support for Redundancy programme helped to put him at ease. It included a one-to-one Information, Advice and Guidance session with an experienced TCHC adviser which made him feel more confident about his achievements and helped him to set manageable goals for the future.

This was followed by a workshop where he learned about a range of useful topics, including CVs, types of interviews, how to conduct yourself during an interview and interviewer psychology. This workshop was inspirational and helped him prepare for interviews and understand what to expect.

The Skills Support for Redundancy programme has developed Damien's confidence enormously. Thanks to the skills he developed and the knowledge he gained from the programme, he was able to impress employers at a competency-based interview and secure a two month contract as a data assistant for Network Rail. This has given him the confidence to build his career and find permanent work in this sector.

Skills Support for the Unemployed is a programme financed by the European Social Fund and the Skills Funding Agency.

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