Stephen Lishman, Physics
From Trainee Technician to Mechanical Engineering Services Supervisor

Stephen joined Durham University as a trainee mechanical engineering technician in 1986 within one of the mechanical workshops of the Department of Physics.

In 1989 after completing a three-year training period he became a qualified technician and attained a permanent position within the workshop. Stephen continued with his studies completing a 2:1 degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1994 and an MSc within the Optical Astronomy and Polarimetry Research Group of the Physics Department in 1998.

Stephen progressed to be Mechanical Workshop Supervisor in 2011 and is now responsible for the day to day operations of the Mechanical Engineering Services workshop and the supervision of its six staff members, organising work flow, ordering materials and components, and discussing work with users of the service.

Kerry Strong, Teaching Laboratory Technician in the Department Of Chemistry

Kerry joined the University in 2013 as an Apprentice Laboratory Technician within the Chemistry department after having completed her A Levels. Through her Apprenticeship she gained a BTEC Level 3 as well as NVQ qualifications in Laboratory and associated technical activities and was given a permanent role as a grade 2 technician in 2016. Kerry then attended Newcastle College part time studying a Foundation Degree in Analytical Chemistry, which was part funded by the University. Kerry was upgraded to a grade 4 technician’s role in 2016 where she continued to gain experience and began to take on extra responsibilities which resulted in achieving a grade 5 in 2018. Kerry has now secured funding through the Apprenticeship Levy to commence the Degree Apprenticeship ‘Laboratory Scientist’.

When asked how she has benefited from accessing the Apprenticeship Levy Kerry said: “The Apprenticeship Levy has given me the opportunity to continue my education whilst continuing to gain experience within the department. This in turn will hopefully stand me in good stead for the future in terms of progression. The Apprenticeship will also help me to improve on skills outside of my usual day to day work. Without the Apprenticeship Levy I probably would have chosen not to continue my education due to the cost of further education.”