

Success Story of Byron Ballotto

I started the Basic Draughting course (MDDOP) at African Academy in April 2008 and completed it in March 2009.

I was placed in a job in April 2009 as a trainee Draughtsperson with a mining manufacturing company. I had really good knowledge of the drawing programs, due to the course I studied at the African Academy. What I did not know was how a workshop runs, manufacturing procedures and everything that goes with running a successful business. This obviously comes with relevant work experience.

The first two years were not what one expects. It is a lot of hard work and perseverance, sometimes simple and tedious work, but it is all part of the journey to greater success. Whilst working, I become competent on 3D modelling programs such as Inventor and after 4 years of working I was promoted to Senior Design Draughtsperson. I created and designed all kinds of equipment from ball mills, crushers, shafts, couplings and gearboxes.

I went overseas on various occasions for inspection of components that I had designed and drawn. I still do this to date.

I now manage the Drawing office at the same company where I started employment. I also manage all manufacturing projects, along-side our Production Manager.

I am currently completing my degree in Mechanical Engineering but I still do the Draughting and Design for both new equipment and reverse Engineering.

There is no doubt in my mind that Draughting as a trade is an irreplaceable qualification to attain; and I am extremely grateful to the African Academy for the course I studied with them. If it were not for the African Academy, I would not have the lucrative career I am in now.

One definitely learns A LOT more in the working environment, as every section of Engineering differs, as well as company standards; but the grounding offered by the African Academy definitely makes a huge impact on one and to further one's career.

Regards

Byron Ballotto

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