

Germain Morris – Professional Cookery Apprenticeship

In the space of a few years, Germain Morris' appetite for success has taken him on a journey from a kitchen porter to being named one of the best apprentices in Oxford.

Germain says, 'I had tried Electrical Engineering as a career, but it wasn't right for me. I realised that I wanted to work in the kitchen environment. I had been working as a kitchen porter at Magdalen School for a few years, and I was determined to progress.'

As he gained more confidence and skills, Germain took on a General Assistant role on a full-time basis. It was while working on this role that he was able to start an Intermediate Apprenticeship Programme in Professional Cookery with his employer, delivered through Activate Enterprise.

Germain enjoyed the opportunity of learning new skills so much that he progressed to the Advanced Apprenticeship, and at the same time was promoted to chef: 'I work alongside three other chefs to provide dining for the students at the school, usually about 800 meals a day, and also for banqueting and other events. I really enjoy bringing innovation and initiative to our menus'

Vocational assessor Jules Farrand says that Germain's calm manner is an asset in a busy kitchen environment: 'Germain is able to inspire others in the class by involving them in real menu selections, so they can put forward their suggestions. He has also used technology proactively, recording learning activity on his phone to create an electronic portfolio.'

Germain has played a key role in his career development, actively looking to take all opportunities to extend his experience. He has been awarded a Medal in the SODEXO Salon Culinaire Apprenticeship category two years in a row (Silver in 2013 and Bronze in 2014). 'This has given me an opportunity to act as ambassador for the company and to meet one of my favourite celebrity chefs and entrepreneurs, Levi Roots.'

Germain is happy that all his effort has been recognised: 'I worked hard to gain promotions and to show my commitment to my employer and this paid off, as they promoted me and supported my training in my apprenticeship.'



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