

Hi I'm Gary, I'm an engineering graduate and I'm currently working at the KitKat factory in York. Engineering can affect KitKat manufacture in a number of ways, right from day to day maintenance keeping the plant running, to installing new projects, installing new plant, installing new pieces equipment, to make the chocolate wrapped product, but as an engineering graduate I don't do any hands on maintenance myself, but I can carry out projects, which can affect the whole process of KitKat from the start to the finish.

Ok, the KitKat process in York starts with the chocolate being made offsite at another factory, it then gets brought here, we then process it, and it gets sent to each different part of the process. For the KitKat process it gets sent to the start where we start tempering the chocolate which gives it that distinctive shiny chocolate appearance, at the same time we also make the wafer; this gets brought together and then gets deposited into moulds, which we then put through a cooling tunnel, which cools it off, and then on a conveyor belt, which then heads down the process to then get wrapped.

So with the improvements in technology and automation, these lines can run almost 24 hours a day with very little operator input, so you can see the critical role engineering plays in this, as these lines have to work. If there's any issues of maintenance on the projects, we have to ensure that we're installing the best technology, that gives the operators the best chance of running this line without making any problems.

As an engineering graduate there's no such thing as a typical day. I know that everybody says that but it's actually true; if you've got a big project on, then you can spend the majority of your day standing in the factory supervising, making sure things are going to your standards, to the Nestle standards, to your own personal standards.

Nestlé has factories all over the UK, both in confectionery and beverage. As part of your graduate scheme you will have placements in two or three different factories. Myself, I've had placements in Halifax, Hayes and now York and I've seen the similarities and the differences between each process, and this has given me a solid base for my career going forwards.