

Packaging training

The IOM3 Training Academy offers a range of industry-recognised packaging courses and qualifications. They include PIABC accredited qualifications as well as training for specific sectors of the packaging industry. Viki Taylor spoke to 2015/2016's highest achievers about the courses they took.

Karen Trafford, Sales Manager, Collcap

2015/16 Best Student Award from PIABC for the Level 3 Certificate in Packaging qualification

How did you find the course?

I attended the course after only nine months of working in packaging and the tutors were very knowledgeable and were able to demonstrate what we were learning by applying it to an example in the workplace. For me being able to hear and see how, what we were learning is applied in the workplace made it more realistic and easier to understand and absorb. I liked that the delegates were from all different areas of packaging – we were able to share experiences and help each other on different elements of the course. Overall, the course was informative and interactive with a few laughs along the way.

What was most valuable about the course?

For me, being new to packaging at the time, the most valuable thing I took away was an awareness of the whole process from development, primary, secondary and tertiary packaging, filling, transport, QC and the environment. Before the course, I would never have considered the necessity of filling trials, compatibility testing or transit tests to name a few things. Also I had more knowledge of manufacturing processes of glass, plastics, paper, board and metal.

How has doing the course helped you with your day-to-day work?

When I returned to the workplace, I had a better understanding of raw materials, packaging and manufacturing. I felt more confident and this helped me identify the needs and requirements of my suppliers and customers and provide a more effective and comprehensive service to them. I understood more about production which helped me explain lead times and I knew more about different types of plastic and why they are used for certain formulations and I had more knowledge around development and how to overcome issues that arose through it.

What is next for you in your career?

I really enjoy working for Collcap and my role, there is a mixture of account management and new business. Every day has new learning opportunities and they nothing quite like seeing a product you have been working on launch in the shops! I don't really think about what is next in my career, I have always worked on the basis that if you enjoy something, carry on doing it. If you don't, change it.

**Nikki Maynard,
Consultant, Technical
Investigations,
Materials Testing,
Smithers Pira**



2015/16 Best Student Award from PIABC for the Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology qualification.

How did you find the course?

The course provided me with a vast platform of knowledge, which I otherwise would not have had access to, and helped solidify my understanding of the mechanisms and principles which drive the packaging solutions we take for granted every day. I did the online course which required discipline to complete but provided flexibility in conducting the coursework around my working hours.

What was the most valuable thing you took away?

The diploma is a great addition to my CV and provides evidence of my hard work and commitment to furthering my career in the packaging industry.

How has doing the course helped you with your day-to-day work?

The knowledge and understanding of a wide range of packaging processes has helped visualise the potential root causes of issues, which we look into during technical investigations. The marketing and commercial part of the course has helped me understand market drivers that complement the technical background I have, having studied chemistry. I think, in particular this provided a useful tool to aid my professional progression from Senior Packaging Technologist to my current role as a consultant, which is more customer focused.

What is next for you in your career?

Continued progression at Smithers Pira – my role primarily involves developing and validating methods, to characterise the performance of packaging solutions. This includes verifying that products are safe and appropriate for use, and conducting technical investigations as a part of failure analysis.