

Dstl careers: hands-on science

Dstl specialises in almost every aspect of science and technology, from artificial intelligence and autonomous robots to test and evaluation of operational systems; from Space to Cyber; and from dealing with the world's most dangerous pathogens to complex weapons systems and platforms.

Meet Omar, one of Dstl's newest recruits who works in the electro-optic countermeasures area.

Dstl is a fantastic place to work, from the frontline support of the armed forces to the cutting edge technological research there is something for everyone.

Once you find your niche everyone will help and encourage you to become the best version of yourself that you can possibly be.

Omar's journey to Dstl started almost immediately after his graduation from King's College London. He now works in the Electromagnetic Protection Group in Dstl where his work helps to protect UK military platforms, including Royal Navy ships, aircraft and land vehicles.

My day-to-day role involves running engagement simulations and working on defensive capabilities for platforms now and in the future.

These simulations often need validation and verification which involves heading out on trials and working with operators in the field to ensure that the countermeasure concepts devised are effective in providing protection to platforms.

A large part of the work involves working with other nations to develop interoperable capabilities either with NATO or through bilateral agreements with specific nations. This provides exciting opportunities for those who work at Dstl to interact and collaborate with experts from all over the world.

One of the most rewarding parts of my role at Dstl is the variety of the work. You are given the opportunity to work on everything from the smallest electronic hardware all the way up to equipment built for installation on naval destroyers.

My line manager encourages me to pursue new knowledge and to continue to train and become an expert in my field.

The amazing part is that you don't have to limit yourself to one

field, you are able to pivot from one role to the next to see what you enjoy the most.

Omar is currently working on a project to test 'in service' equipment for the Royal Navy which involves trials to observe the equipment in action and to ensure that it is operating effectively. As part of this, he was able to talk directly to the customer and advise on a more efficient route to running certain aspects of the trial.

I've always wanted to work in Defence, it struck me as being quite daring and exciting, which is why I became a British Army cadet – reaching the rank of Sergeant.

Working here at Dstl means I can mix doing really cool scientific stuff with the adrenaline of working with the armed forces.