



## Triumph Profile : Design Engineer

### **Michael Norrington**

Graduated in 2007 with a Beng (hons) in Motorcycle Engineering and Design from Kingston University

For my placement year, as part of my degree course, I chose to apply to Triumph because of the course in which I was enrolled and my love of motorcycles. This was reinforced by the placement package which was provided and the opportunity to work with a diverse range of components, materials and manufacturing processes.

During my placement year I was involved with the Tiger 1050 project and found the year both challenging and rewarding, gaining experience in many aspects of engineering and design. At the end of the year Triumph offered me a job to return to after graduating; I gratefully accepted and returned in the summer of 2007.

I returned to an urban sports chassis design team and have found the work rewarding in many respects. Being part of a chassis design team has provided me with the sole responsibility for a major area of a new project. Working on the fuel tank, seat and various other smaller components has given me an opportunity to gain experience in many aspects of engineering. I will also get to develop these parts through testing and into volume production, thus allowing me to gain knowledge and experience of a complete project cycle. The team is also responsible for supporting an existing model which will give me the opportunity to provide current model support and learn from the different variety of challenges this offers.

Triumph have been keen to ensure progress in both my professional and personal development offering advice on MPDS as well as enrolling me on many training courses including advanced CAD, Key skills and organisational training.

The level of responsibility given to Triumph's Design Engineers has also helped me broaden my engineering knowledge and experience. Developing components through the entire design process has meant communication with all of the departments within Triumph including purchasing, quality and manufacturing. This communication along with



liaising with suppliers has led to overseas travel including trips to the Far East.

As well as my normal duties as a Design Engineer, I am responsible for the maintenance, updating and organisation of the design department's in house test rig facilities. Providing me with opportunities to address health and safety concerns, manage testing resources as well as the design and implementation of new testing equipment.

I am now also part of the fuel tank working group. This group is responsible for the development of best practice standards relating to the design and manufacture of fuel tanks as well as the updating of related in house procedures. It also gives the opportunity to discuss fuel tank related issue across various projects and models further broadening the knowledge base within Triumph and of the individual Design Engineers.

Triumph has always been willing to provide me with the opportunity to increase my responsibilities which I have found to be an invaluable characteristic of my employment. This has meant that everyday presents new challenges, learning experiences and rewards.

Triumph has grown rapidly since I joined in my placement year and looks set to continue that growth for the long term future. Seeing Triumphs on the road, in the UK as well as abroad and reading the many positive test reports in the motorcycle press provides me with a great sense of achievement, this is reinforced by being part of the remaining UK manufacturing industry.