

# Academia and Business

## - A foot in each camp

When I was approaching the end of my chemistry degree I was fortunate as I knew that I wanted to remain at university and even more fortunate in that I was able to do so. However, as the end of my doctorate approached and while not working away madly on my thesis I needed to decide a) what I wanted to do afterwards and b) where I would be able to use the skills and knowledge I had developed over my studies. I had already decided that a life in academia was not for me however the step out into industry was very intimidating. The main problem that I was encountering as a recent graduate was that although I was getting interviews for positions that would enable me to use my skills and expertise, I would keep missing out on the position to someone that had "slightly more industrial experience". Minelco Minerals (a UK member of the Minelco Group) however were the opposite of this. Research and development is an important base for Minelco's development and as a natural step they have joined the UK's KTP programme

with the express hope of employing a recent graduate.

### KTP - partnership delivering mutual benefits

At this point I should explain that KTP stands for Knowledge Transfer Partnership which is a government initiative designed to encourage links between universities and industry. This programme promotes an industrial company and a university to come together and present a proposal to government for a joint project that will be of benefit to both parties. If accepted by the Government, the project is partially financed by the company with the remainder of the cost being provided by an appropriate government authority. One or more person is employed by the university as a KTP associate. The associate is then considered as a member of staff at the university giving them access to the universities facilities for their work and the vast knowledge of the universities other staff members, but works exclusively for the company carrying out the work outlined in the



Tony at Sheffield University using some of the X-ray characterisation equipment.

original proposal. The advantage for the company being the access to the universities facilities that would otherwise be unavailable to them or that would be costly to access, while the university are able to gain recognition by the production of academic papers on suitable parts of the work carried out during the project. In this case the KTP associates position was a research and development role for Minelco through an association with the University of Sheffield's Department of Engineering Materials, with the final funding being provided by the governments Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

### Working at Minelco

In my work over the last year with Minelco I have had to meet and work with people from all areas of the company on different and varied projects from the forklift truck and machine operators out on the plant, the sales and marketing teams, the company accountants, Minelco Minerals managing director and I have even had to make a presentation to the CEO of the Minelco Group. In all these interactions I have been made to feel most welcome and my contribution even despite my "lack of industrial experience" has been acknowledged and appreciated by Minelco. Whenever I have needed advice/guidance from the members of the Minelco team with more experience in certain areas of the company, they have been more than happy to give me the time and

to show me how to be able to carry out the tasks I have been asked to complete. I am fortunate to have found myself at home in the Minelco team and am now, hopefully, looking forward to the remainder of my career with Minelco.

By Tony Hutton

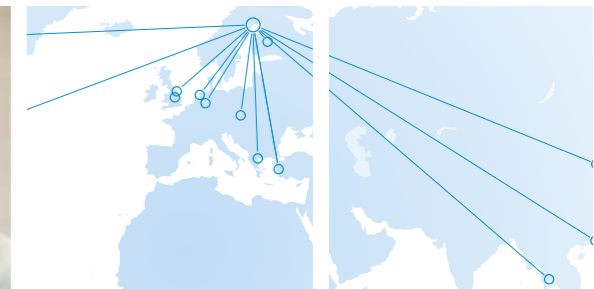


Tony collecting and checking the grading of a sample processed at Minelco Minerals.



Tony collecting some large samples for property analysis.

## Sofia i Luleå jobbarkompis med Leon i Moerdijk



Sofia och Leon trivs och inspireras av samarbetet som internationella kollegor. Båda ingår i vårt "Magnetite Team" som jobbar med att marknadsföra Magnetit på den internationella industrimineralmarknaden.

Efter universitetsstudier och civilingenjörsexamen i respektive land har Sofia Bergström fått anställning hos oss i Luleå och Leon Hendriks i vårt bolag i Moerdijk, Nederländerna. Oberoende av det fysiska avståndet har Sofia och Leon ett intensivt och nära samarbete för att finna smarta lösningar på våra internationella kunders behov.

Hos Minelco finns möjligheten till spännande arbete i en internationell miljö. Vill du veta mer om oss, välkommen att besöka [www.minelco.com](http://www.minelco.com).



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