



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

Chemical &  
Process  
Engineering.

## Process Safety & Loss Prevention MSc — Graduate Case Study

Alex Torres



### Why did you enrol on the course?

I am originally from Mexico and I had a BEng in Control Systems from a university in Mexico. I worked for ABB Mexico as a Control Engineer and became interested in emergency safety systems for oil refineries. There seemed to be a lack of knowledge of systems like these within Mexico and I wanted to get a qualification that would allow me to exploit this. Sheffield appealed to me as the course provided all of the knowledge that I required.

### What did you think of the Process Safety & Loss Prevention (PSLP) course?

The MSc course was good and very interesting. I enjoyed the course so much that I attended all nine of the modules of the course even though I only needed to attend eight.

I was very impressed with the placement system that exists on the course. The PSLP Course Director arranged paid summer placements for students on the course. He arranged a placement for me at MW Kellogg. The placement was excellent - hard work but very rewarding. MW Kellogg didn't treat me a student, I was very much treated as an employee of the company. This was a great way of adding experience to my CV while getting a qualification at the same time.

### What are you doing now?

When I graduated I returned to Mexico for a year and worked as an engineer. However, I decided that I wanted to carry out some research in Control Systems. So of course I returned to Sheffield to study for a PhD in the field of safety critical control systems.

### How has the Process Safety and Loss Prevention course helped you?

The course has helped me with my PhD. My actual research work is an integration of safety critical control systems and safety and reliability modelling for optimization of design. So I am applying some of the knowledge I got in the MSc course to my specific area of expertise. The course gave me a good background and will allow me to get a good job back in Mexico.

### Would you recommend the course at Sheffield to anyone thinking of a career in Process Safety?

Yes, I would as it is a good course. I was impressed that it wasn't an "academic" course; Sheffield employed specialists from industry to run the modules.

Find out more about the course at: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/pslp](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/pslp)