



**REPORT ON THE NATIONAL
POLICE PRE-JOIN AWARD
AND PLACEMENT WITH
DEVON AND CORNWALL
POLICE**

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I graduated with a BSc (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies in September 2013. I have thoroughly enjoyed my three years in Plymouth but the most interesting and most unique year was my final year. Even though it was the most challenging it was by far the most rewarding too. I have always yearned for a career in the Police Service, and so this year has been the perfect preparation for a potential policing career.

The first two years of my studies allowed me to build up knowledge in a range of criminology and criminal justice topics. However, in my final year I chose to focus on policing. This involved undertaking the National Police Pre-join Award and a placement with Devon and Cornwall Police. The National Police Pre-join Award allowed an in-depth focus on how the Police work and the legislation which governs their actions on a daily basis, for example the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Such legislation governs interactions between the police and the public, such that officers are required to treat people fairly and without discrimination in policing situations. The National Police Pre-join Award focuses students on topics such as stop and search powers, the power of arrest and the policing of Domestic Violence to name a few. I was awarded the National Police Pre-join Award and, in addition, the Devon and Cornwall Police prize for the best achievement in the Certificate in Knowledge of Policing. Both of these achievements have helped develop my CV and employability.

¹ Elliott graduated from Plymouth University in September 2013. In addition to his degree he was awarded the Devon and Cornwall Police Prize for highest achievement in the Certificate of Knowledge in Policing. Photograph shows Elliott being presented with his Certificate by Chief Inspector Benjamin Deer, right Inspector Darren Green - both Devon and Cornwall Police, and left Paul Richards module leader.

My placement with Devon and Cornwall Police was a great opportunity to utilise theoretical knowledge and turn it into practice. I decided to undertake work experience with Devon and Cornwall Police which entailed shadowing a PCSO for 80 hours. This was mainly going out on patrol in a local neighbourhood and providing a friendly, highly visible face of the Police on the streets. I also got the chance to take part in role-play with Police drug dogs training which was very rewarding, as I knew that my voluntary participation was valuable training for the dogs that fight drug crime in Devon and Cornwall. My favourite part of work based learning was feeling part of the team during each shift, as there I had the chance to speak with PCSOs, Police Constables, Sergeants and Inspectors. I was able to see how sensitive information was handled under the Data Protection Act 1998, understanding first-hand how the police service protect data. By undertaking Work Based Learning I have learned more about real Police work, as well as improving key employability skills such as preparing for interviews, writing letters, improving self-confidence and presentation skills.

Since graduating I have been successful in securing employment with Dorset Police. The National Police Pre-join Award and work based learning within my degree have provided a strong base of practical and theoretical knowledge and a burst of confidence which I believe led to my success at interview. I would strongly recommend any student who is interested in a career with the Police to take these modules as part of their studies, particularly as the Certificate in Knowledge of Policing may be compulsory for candidates who want to become police officers in the future. Both modules also provide practical experience of working with a Criminal Justice agency, which will give the edge that employers are looking for.