



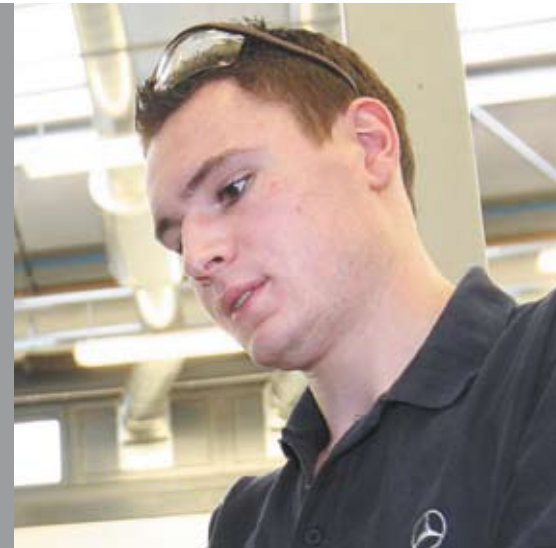
worldskills  
UK Alumni

## Dean Jones: Automobile Technology

<b>Competed in:</b>	WorldSkills Calgary 2009 – Team UK
<b>Awarded:</b>	Medallion for Excellence
<b>Home town:</b>	Swansea
<b>Region:</b>	Wales
<b>Date of birth:</b>	05/08/1988
<b>Age at competition:</b>	21
<b>Employer:</b>	Mercedes-Benz of Swansea
<b>Learning provider:</b>	CrossKeys College, Newport
<b>Training provider:</b>	Emtec and Carter & Carter, Warwickshire College, ADS

### Qualifications

- BTEC Level 3 Light vehicle repair and technology
- NVQ Level 3 Light vehicle repair and technology
- Key skills level 2/3
- Mercedes - various



### What was your route into Team UK?

Dean's extensive and exciting route into Team UK started with an online exam designed by WorldSkills UK to test competitor's knowledge of the skill. He then competed in and had success at the regional and national finals.

Dean then took part in a selection competition for EuroSkills in which he won the chance to represent the UK in Rotterdam in 2008.

Whilst Dean was training for EuroSkills he was short-listed for WorldSkills. On his return from EuroSkills, Dean put all his competition experience into practise at the Team Selection and won a place in Team UK for WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

### Why did you choose to get involved with WorldSkills?

*"WorldSkills was something completely different for me and offered a new challenge. The competition and selection process allowed me to take on work which is completely different from what I do everyday at work."*

### What training did you undertake as part of your journey to WorldSkills and what impact did this have on your life?

Dean had to learn loads of new skills for WorldSkills as the competition tests areas that he would not usually demonstrate in day-to-day work. The intensive training plan meant Dean had to travel to training venues around the UK a few times every month to take part in specialist training. Luckily, his employers Mercedes-Benz saw the benefits to Dean's development and without their support and time allowance he wouldn't have been able to prepare for the Competition.

*"I had to learn loads of new skills. I don't usually have to strip gearboxes and engines so this was something completely new for me. The training was really good so I didn't mind only being home at weekends."*

### What was WorldSkills like?

EuroSkills gave Dean some great competition experience so he had an idea of what to expect.

*"Although I had an idea of what it might be like at WorldSkills I was still surprised at the size of it. It was out of this world!"*

### What did you have to do during the competition?

Over the 22 hours of competition Dean was tested in seven different modules. Each module was designed to challenge the competitors in a specific area of Automobile Technology. These ranged from a brake tests to an engine strip and rebuild.

### What did being part of Team UK and competing at WorldSkills mean to you?

*"It was something that I wanted to do, and do well in. It was a really big deal for me to be there in Calgary representing the UK in my profession."*

### How did it feel to receive a Medallion for Excellence?

Dean went to Calgary with the aim of making the top ten, as previously the best UK performance has been 12th.

*"It was great to get a Medallion for Excellence and to come 6th overall - this meant I had achieved what I wanted. It was also good for me to see the improvement I had made from EuroSkills to WorldSkills."*

### What has competing done for you both personally and professionally?

Since getting back to work Dean is looking at things completely differently.

*"I now have a positive 'can do' attitude; it has made me believe the impossible is possible. The extra skills and knowledge that I have gained have made my job a lot easier. When I finished my apprenticeship I thought that was it and that I knew enough. WorldSkills has taught me more than doing my apprenticeship three times over."*

### What is the dream?

*"I want to continue working to improve and develop my skills and see where the future takes me."*

### Would you encourage others to get involved in WorldSkills?

It's a firm yes from Dean.

*"It's fantastic! You get all these new experiences and even if the result isn't what you hoped for you, you have done something new and something that not everyone gets the chance to do."*

### What do you think of the event being held in London in 2011?

Dean thinks London has got a lot to live up to after the fantastic performance of Calgary as a WorldSkills host, but more importantly sees the benefits it will bring to the UK.

*"With the current financial climate it is important that people take skills seriously. I think hosting WorldSkills will help the UK rethink their attitude towards skills."*



For more information about the WorldSkills, UK Alumni, contact the UK Skills communications team:  
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