



worldskills  
UK Alumni

## Oliver Clack: Stonemasonry

**Competed in:** WorldSkills Calgary 2009 – Team UK  
**Awarded:** Medallion for Excellence  
**Home town:** Chichester  
**Region:** South East  
**Date of birth:** 13/05/1988  
**Age at competition:** 21  
**Employer:** Cathedral Works  
**Learning provider:** Weymouth College

### Qualifications

- NVQ Level 2
- Key Skills Level 1 & 2
- Abrasive Wheels
- Health & Safety Level 1

City & Guilds  
Qualified



### What was your route into Team UK?

It was while Oliver was studying for his apprenticeship that he entered his first skills competition and became the regional winner. Oliver followed this win with success at the national SkillBuild competition and then received an invitation to the WorldSkills short-listing process. Developing his skills constantly, Oliver made it through both the Squad and Team Selection to earn himself a place in Team UK.

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

*"It looked like a great opportunity so I snapped up the chance to be part of it."*

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

Training began straight away for Oliver. He worked closely with Kevin Calpin, the Training Manager / WorldSkills Expert, to enhance every aspect of his skill. Oliver also worked with other trainers to develop his work including some carving experience at York Minster. Oliver's employer was really supportive during his training programme and even allowed him to complete WorldSkills projects at work.

*"All of the extra training really helped me improve in my profession. I built everything I learnt into my everyday work, including working to extremely high tolerances."*

### What was WorldSkills like?

*"It was awesome; it was such a cool experience! The amount of good experience easily balanced out the hard work I had to put into the competition."*

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

Over the 22 hours of competition Oliver had a challenging test project to complete. The project involved building a birdbath from three pieces of stone. Each part of the final project had to be completed at certain times throughout the four days. All areas of stonemasonry were covered in the competition including templates, carving and letter cutting.

### Who inspired you during your journey to WorldSkills?

*"Kevin Calpin, my Training Manager, and Darren Lawrence my college lecturer, were my main inspiration. The positive comments from them and others at work inspired the need in me to achieve big things."*

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

*"It was a quality thing to be involved with and to be representing the UK was pretty cool. It was a massive leap from what my life was like a couple of years ago."*

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

Oliver's hard work really paid off and he came 4th in the competition.

*"It was great to achieve a Medallion for Excellence and get recognition that I went to WorldSkills and did well."*

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

Having just finished his apprenticeship he is already taking on more carving at work.

*"WorldSkills has given me a lot more confidence both personally and in my ability as a stonemason. I have also improved my skills and knowledge which is going to help me a lot with my job."*

**What is the dream?**

*"Eventually I really want to travel, meet new people and try new things. At the moment though I'm going to continue to work hard in my job and repay my employers for the investment that they have made in me."*

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

*"It has to be one of the most amazing things that I have ever done so I would recommend it to anyone without hesitation. It might not be for everyone but I'm guessing most people would love it!"*

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

Oliver is keen to stay involved and thinks it is great that the competition is coming to London in 2011.

*"I think it's a great opportunity for Team UK to do really well on our home ground. I also think it's going to be a good opportunity to promote trades like stonemasonry and get people interested in skills as a career choice."*



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