



AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Alex England, regional sales manager



What first interested you about learning more about the steel industry?

I attended university in Sheffield, England, a city that is fondly known as the steel city in England and has a great deal of history relating to our industry. It was the home to Henry Bessemer and the invention of stainless steel. As a result, throughout the course of my degree, the steel industry was always discussed and present in my studies. While I was studying for my mechanical engineering degree, I found an opportunity to take an internship with an R&D department that specialized in steelmaking technologies. During my time as an R&D engineer I visited an EAF for the first time. When I first heard the roar and felt the vibration as the furnace struck an arc, I knew this was the career for me! I have since worked in steel mills throughout Britain, Europe and the U.S.

Did any AIST programs assist with your career advancement?

Since arriving in the U.S., I have taken advantage of everything AIST has to offer, from Technology Committees, local chapter meetings and training events, to AISTech and presenting papers. The ability to get involved in everything AIST offers has helped me with both professional networking and improving my technical understanding of the steel industry. Having moved to the U.S. from a country that didn't have anything comparable to AIST, I can truly appreciate how invaluable what they offer is to all of us involved.

What advice do you have for students who are curious about pursuing something related to the steel industry?

To anyone curious about the steel industry or just curious about what lies ahead of you in the years after you finish school, I would suggest attending an AIST local Member Chapter meeting. These meetings are open to anyone to attend. The other attendees are often experienced steel industry professionals with a wealth of knowledge which they love to share. This is not only a great opportunity to pick someone's brain about their career in the steel industry but also just talk to engineers and technical employees on their general experience since college. These meetings are also a great chance to learn about opportunities in your area. There are countless steel mills, vendors, foundries and secondary processing plants around the U.S., so you might be surprised to find what's on your doorstep.

What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?

I am very passionate about the next stage of our industry's future, particularly how we can attract and retain the best and brightest young minds, transfer a lifetime of knowledge from retiring employees to those young professionals, and improve the overall perception of the steel industry. I'm also passionate about how the industry can integrate the best cutting-edge technology like artificial intelligence into some of our more aging systems. I hope to work closely with AIST and my colleagues on projects like these, especially through involvement with the Young Professional Steering Committee, Technology Committee events and AISTech. I look forward to a bright future for our industry and hope to attract the best and brightest minds to come and help us build it. ♦



AIST offers a ONE-YEAR COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIP TO NEW AIST MEMBERS age 30 and younger. All Young Professionals also receive a 50% discount on full conference and one-day registration for AISTech. To become a member today, visit AIST.org/Join or contact Member Services at +1.724.814.3000 or memberservices@aist.org.