

Jamie tells how he landed dream job at the top of fast-growing company

From student to MD in just two years

By Anna Adams

A HIGH-flying graduate became the boss of a company only two years after going on work experience at the same firm.

Jamie MacSween, 25, took part in an eight-week work placement at a product design company while he was studying at Strathclyde University.

And he made such an impression that he was asked back as managing director when he finished his studies.

James had already been signed up by Fiat and was living in Italy when he was offered the prestigious job by the chairman of hi-tech firm Autosonics.

He said: "I was working in Turin and having a fantastic time. It was a hard decision to swap a life of drinking wine and eating fine food to come back to Scotland.

"But the challenges of being a managing director really appealed to me. I knew if I didn't rise to the challenge I would regret it.

"I wasn't paid a great deal for my placement but money has never been my driving force."

Since the young graduate has been at the helm, Autosonics's profits have increased by 600% and sales boosted by 50%.

But success is nothing new to the young designer who won a Shell award at the age of 20 for the most enterprising student before landing the dream job on Fiat's graduate programme.



NEW BOSS: Jamie MacSween, 25, has already been a success at the helm of Autosonics

Autosonics, which employs five people, develops safety devices for commercial vehicles.

With an annual turnover of £600,000 Jamie is now looking to take on an extra eight members of staff and launch a series of new products.

He was three years into a product design engineering course at Strathclyde University when he

took a summer placement with the Alloa-based company.

As soon as he joined the company through the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme he was given his own project to design and produced a vehicle-reversing aid.

Jamie said: "The company is small and I had a good chance to see the project through."

He kept in touch with the company and followed its progress while he finished his studies in Glasgow.

Jamie said he was lucky to land the top job but added: "Lots of students spend the summer working in bars and shops which is often better paid but I would never have got this job without work experience."