

International Women In Engineering Day 2019

Journey into Engineering

After getting my first taste of engineering at Scottish Space School, that took me to NASA in Texas for a two-week residential engineering course, I pursued my passion to join the Energy Industry. I'm still waiting for my invite to the international space station, but until then I'm focusing on being part of engineering a better world for our future across the energy industry and across major infrastructure.

I studied Engineering as I saw it as an opportunity to develop my passion for problem solving and also use my creative side. I am a naturally curious and people person, so working in an area that gives me the freedom to make improvements, address problems and work with lots of different people was a big attraction.

Career Journey

I have had the privilege to work with two great companies in my career to date; I worked for National Grid for over 6 year's leading on the design and coordination of 12 offshore wind projects and the connection of low carbon generation, each project in excess of a £1bn – to now working in Deloitte's Capital Programmes Practice, advising clients on organisation transformation – effectively supporting clients to successfully deliver new energy projects or new infrastructure to meet our future society demands.

I'm really proud that in my role as an engineer that I get to support other's development; whether that is going into schools, mentoring, coaching, and to judging the Energy UK Young Energy Professional Awards. I am personally driven by supporting others professional development because of the time that others have invested in me. I also find that with each person I meet with through these opportunities I have a renewed passion for my industry.

Advice for others

Find roles models and don't be afraid to reach out; there has never been a single person who I have approached who hasn't had the time to offer their advice or insight.

Also seek out a sponsor to help you navigate your professional development. Sponsors can provide that independent challenge and test if your being ambitious enough, getting the most value out of your current role, and ensure your building on both your strengths and development areas in the most effective way to reach your career target.

You have to be self-driven. Take your career in your own hands and seize opportunities when they occur. Challenge yourself to get involved with activities outside work.

And get industrial experience. It was invaluable to my role and has set me up to have a varied and successful career.

Susan McDonald, Manager in Infrastructure & Capital Projects, Deloitte