

A woman with glasses and a red jacket stands in a workshop with her arms crossed. The background shows various mechanical equipment and workbenches.

Women in Engineering

Emma Vickerson
Gen2 Mechanical Trainer / Assessor



Why did you choose engineering as a potential career?

I have always been interested in electronics and engineering. When I was young I joined the sea cadets and we did engineering whilst I was there and I really enjoyed it. I signed up for a cadetship with the Merchant Navy when I was 16, I went to sixth form for a year and studied maths, engineering, physics and politics to get the UCAS points I needed so I could go straight onto the foundation degree programme in Merchant Navy.

How did your engineering career start?

I joined the Merchant Navy aged 17 and was based near Southampton. I did six months studying at college learning basic engineering principles, workshop skills, welding and using milling machines before going to sea for the first time.

My first sea trip involved flying to Miami and sailing around the Caribbean, Mexico and Alaska. During my first three years I completed a cadetship, which is similar to an apprenticeship.

Completing the cadetship made me a qualified Engineering Officer of the Watch. I was in the Merchant Navy for six years before joining the cruise ships as a Junior Watch Keeper. The primary role of a Watch Keeper is to maintain the ships equipment – undertaking operating activities to make sure that everything runs efficiently. The role involved a lot of planned engineering maintenance and dealing with breakdowns.

How has your career progressed?

After three years on the cruise ships I came ashore and worked for Bureau Veritas who I worked with for seven years. During my time I wanted to continue with my education and so undertook a top up degree to complete a BEng in Engineering via the Open University. I started a family whilst studying but still managed to complete my BEng degree.

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Why did you decide to become a trainer at Gen2?

The pandemic made me assess what was important in life. I knew that the training role would mean I could share my skills and I wanted to work with young people. The training role has given me a better work / life balance and fits in well with my young family.

Why do you think apprenticeships are important?

For me personally I think apprenticeships (or in my case a cadetship) are really important. There is no way I could have had the career I did without this vocational route. Apprenticeships offer you practical skills whilst you study. You become part of the workforce whilst you are learning and earn a wage.

What advice would you give to a female considering engineering as a career?

Find an apprenticeship and company that interests you and you will enjoy your work. Be yourself, work hard and enjoy it!



“Find an apprenticeship and company that interests you .. be yourself, work hard and enjoy it!”

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