



HerStory - Inspiring Engineers

Guide for teachers and students to help you access HerStory

The UK has the lowest representation of women in engineering out of 28 European Countries*. This new site is designed to help signpost girls to sources of information about what they may discover to be a potentially rewarding career. Many girls find themselves choosing career routes based on the limited role models around them, and their choices impact upon their life chances and earnings potential. The intention behind **HerStory** is to highlight different opportunities which may be of interest to young women who would otherwise have remained ignorant about them. We have gathered together stories from women at different stages of their careers who have taken a range of routes, and we have sought to present a varied picture of the engineering sector. We hope that you, your colleagues and your pupils will find this resource of interest and of use. Please do let us know your views and suggestions by contacting us at wiset@shu.ac.uk

*UKRC analysis of the European Labour Force Survey (2007)

Classroom activity based on the group searching through the website

1. **Ask your class to find out where the UK ranks in Europe in terms of women in engineering** (*answer 28th out of 28 with women making up only 8.7% of the UK engineering workforce*)
2. **Can Engineering Apprentices be female?!** (*The group should look at the Apprentices section to see some examples of women in apprenticeships*)
3. **Find at least three different types of Engineering Student** (*In the Students section, the group can find examples of a wide range of engineering disciplines*)
4. **Find at least five different jobs that female engineers are working in** (*in the Early Career and Mid Career section of What Women and Girls say you will find a wide range of different jobs*)
5. **Read Louisa Brown's profile in the Early Career section. What does an average day consist of for her?** (*The intention here is to dispel myths about engineering being a very dirty and hands-on job*)

6. **Now read Siobhan Kohli-Lynch's profile also in the Early Career section. What does Siobhan wear to work and what type of environment does she work in?** (*Again the intention is to highlight that Siobhan works mainly in an office and in a team*)

7. **Did Felicity Milton (early Career section) want to be an Engineer when she was little?** (*Very few of the women on this site knew what Engineering was when they were at school, so many of them arrived at engineering by chance or through encouragement from others at a later stage. Felicity shows how she gradually became aware of engineering all around her in her normal environment*)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: There seem to be lots of different types of engineering. How can I find out more?

A: *Go to the 'Becoming Chartered' section for links to Professional Bodies and careers websites. You can also go to the 'What Women and Girls Say' section to find out about the different routes into and types of jobs in engineering.*

Q: Do you have to go to University to become an engineer?

A: *In the 'Personal Perspectives' section, you can find out about Apprenticeship routes*

Q: What is it like studying Engineering at University?

A: *Go to 'What Educators Say' and click on the response from Karen Vernon-Parry , Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University to see what she says about the student experience*

Q: What do the students think about their life at University?

A: *In the Students section, you can hear and read all about life at University.*

Q: What do female students feel about being one of very few girls in a class?

A: *Go to the Students tab in 'What Women and Girls Say' and hear directly from students about their experiences*

Q: What kind of job might I be able to get if I study Engineering?

A: *Go to the Early Career and Mid Career tabs in the 'What Women and Girls Say' section to read all sorts of different stories about Civil, Structural, Aeronautical, Biomechanical, Medical, Telecommunications and Railway engineering and more...*

There are other websites where you can find information about engineering careers:

<http://www.futuremorph.org/>

<http://www.mathscareers.org.uk/>

<http://www.stemgirls.co.uk/>

<http://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/>