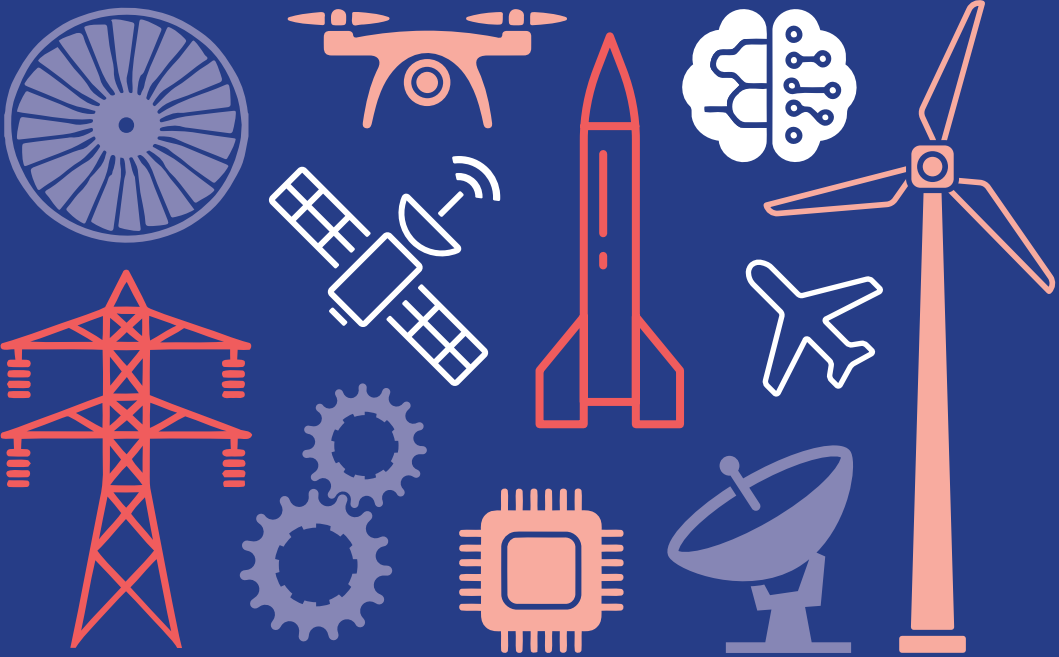


MY SKILLS
MY LIFE

WOMEN APPRENTICES IN STEM



Created in collaboration
with University of the West
of England (UWE) Bristol



UWE
Bristol University
of the
West of
England

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
How to get started	5
Question sheet	7
Personality type tally sheet	8
The twelve personality types	9
INNOVATOR	12
COACH	13
TRAINER	14
INVESTIGATOR	15
CAMPAIGNER	16
COORDINATOR	17
EXPLORER	18
COMMUNICATOR	19
MANAGER	20
INFLUENCER	21
DEVELOPER	22
QUALITY CONTROLLER	23
Your notes	24

INTRODUCTION

By Sarah Behenna and Dr Laura Fogg Rogers, UWE Bristol

Women apprentices in STEM are reshaping industries and redefining what's possible. Yet, despite their achievements, they remain underrepresented – especially in fields like engineering, construction, and digital technologies.

This *My Skills My Life* booklet, sponsored by the University of the West of England (UWE), celebrates the stories of women apprentices who are thriving in these sectors. By showcasing diverse role models, we aim to inspire girls to see themselves in these careers and to understand that apprenticeships are not only accessible but empowering pathways into STEM.

Research from the “Women in Industry” programme at the University of the West of England demonstrated the transformative power of mentoring and representation. Using a tiered mentoring model, the programme supported women in male-dominated Degree Apprenticeships, leading to a 60% increase in female applications across six standards in just six months. Mentees reported greater confidence and a stronger sense of belonging, while mentors gained cultural awareness and reflective practice.



Sarah Behenna
Research Associate,
UWE Bristol



Dr Laura Fogg Rogers
Associate Professor,
UWE Bristol

These findings highlight how visible role models and structured support can drive both recruitment and retention – especially when embedded within inclusive employer–university partnerships.

This booklet supports the *Women Like Me* initiative, led by Associate Professor Dr Laura Fogg at UWE Bristol since 2018. The project pairs senior female STEM professionals with junior women, fostering mentoring relationships and encouraging outreach. Through public engagement and peer support, *Women Like Me* helps junior professionals become role models themselves – showing girls that engineering and construction are creative, collaborative, and open to everyone. By amplifying these voices, we hope to build a more inclusive future where women apprentices in STEM are not the exception, but the norm.



HOW TO GET STARTED

Instructions – 1 Player

You'll need:

- A pen
- A question sheet (page 7)
- A personality type tally sheet (page 8)
- 12 x personality types (shown on pages 10-23 in this booklet)

Make sure

You don't look at the personality type pages (10-23) in this booklet until you've completed the quiz

1. Read the first question on the question sheet, pick the answer which best describes you.
2. Look for the letters next to each answer. On the personality type tally sheet, make a tally mark in the boxes which match your answer.
3. Repeat with the other questions.
4. When you have answered all questions, count the number of tallies in each box. Circle the three letters you matched the highest with.
5. Turn to the personality type pages in this booklet. Pick the three pages with the letters you matched the highest with.
6. Read each page to see how your skills match with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers, and learn more about other people who also matched with these personality types. If you're interested, you could also look at the other personality type pages too!

Instructions – 2 Players

You'll need:

- A pen per player
- A question sheet (page 7)
- A personality type tally sheet for each player (page 8)
- 12 x personality types (shown on pages 10-23 in this booklet)

Make sure

You don't look at the personality type pages (10-23) in this booklet until you've completed the quiz

1. Decide who will be asking the questions first (Player A) and who will be answering (Player B). You'll be filling in the personality type tally sheet for each other.
2. Player A uses the question sheet to read aloud the first question and all the answers listed. Player B should pick the answer which best describes them. Feel free to discuss the answers.
3. To record Player B's response, Player A checks for the personality type letters next to each answer. On the personality type tally sheet Player A makes tally marks in all the boxes which match Player B's answer (an answer may match none, one or several letters).
4. Repeat with the other questions. Then turn Player B's tally sheet over.
5. Swap roles and repeat.
6. When both players have answered all questions, swap tally sheets and count the number of tallies in each box. Circle the three letters you each matched the highest with.
7. Turn to the personality type pages in this booklet. Pick the three pages with the letters you each matched highest with.
8. Read each page to see how your skills match with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers, and learn more about other people who also matched with these personality types. If you're interested, you could also look at the other personality type pages too!

QUESTION SHEET

1. I like to work...

on my own **G L**

with others **B C D F H I**

somewhere in-between **A E J K**

2. I am good at...

being creative and thinking of ideas **A B E I J K**

being practical and like to get stuck in **G L**

somewhere in-between **C D F H**

3. I am good with...

words **C E F H**

numbers and money **A D I**

somewhere in-between **B G J K L**

4. I like to be...

organised/to plan **B C F I J L**

flexible and see how things go **A K**

somewhere in-between **E D G H**

5. I am good at...

explaining (and simplifying) things **A B C H K**

finding out things **D G L**

somewhere in-between **E F I J**

6. I enjoy...

finding ways to do things better **B F H I J K L**

just getting on with it and going with the flow **E G**

somewhere in-between **A C D**

7. I like to...

jump in with new things **A D G I K**

understand first, then get started **B C L**

somewhere in-between **E F H J**

8. I like...

things to be done the right way **B C F I J L**

to just get things done **A E G**

somewhere in-between **D H K**

9. I am good at...

reading and following instructions **A C E H**

using my own initiative and working independently **D G J L**

somewhere in-between **B F I K**

10. I like...

understanding what people want and need **C D F G H K**

getting people to do what is needed **L**

somewhere in-between **A B E I J**

11. I like to...

lead the team **A I**

help the team succeed **B C F J K**

somewhere in-between **D E G H L**

12. I am...

diplomatic **B C F H J L**

a disruptor (in a good way) **A E K**

somewhere in-between **D G I**

13. I like...

to see the overall idea and where I will end up **A E I**

lots of detail and want to see every part of the journey **B D J K L**

somewhere in-between **C F G H**

14. I like to find...

solutions to problems and solving puzzles **D G I K L**

answers creatively by thinking outside the box **A B J**

somewhere in-between **C E F H**

15. I am someone who...

loves big groups **B C E H J**

prefers small groups or one to one **D G K L**

somewhere in-between **A F I**

PERSONALITY TYPE TALLY SHEET

Name

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

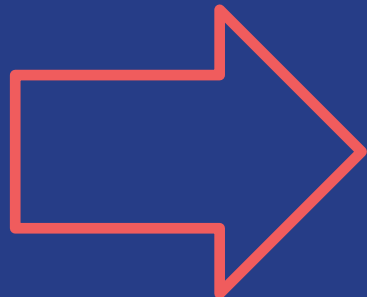
K

L

THE TWELVE PERSONALITY TYPES



**Make sure you don't look at
the following pages until
you've completed the quiz.**



A **INNOVATOR**



Confident
 Understands what people want and need
 Creative and has lots of ideas
 Open minded
 Can solve problems creatively – can think of new ways to find solutions
 Strong-willed
 Influencer
 Good with money
 Good at leading people and taking charge

B **COACH**



Understanding and creative
 Understands what people want and how to get them what they need
 Good at working with a wide range of people
 Takes pride in exceeding expectations
 Good listener
 Compassionate
 Trustworthy and honest
 Problem solver
 Friendly

C **TRAINER**



Understanding and helpful
 Understands how people learn differently
 Thrives on helping others improve
 Good at simplifying complex information
 Can think of creative ways to get information to other people
 Good listener
 Passionate about sharing knowledge
 Efficient
 Organised

D **INVESTIGATOR**



Likes to work things out logically
 Good at collecting ideas and information from people (and things)
 Works well in a team
 Great at understanding different information
 Problem solver
 Honest and ethical
 Cooperative and intelligent

E **CAMPAIGNER**



Persuasive
 Understands what motivates people
 Has lots of creative ideas
 Good with words
 Organised and good at meeting deadlines
 Good listener
 Passionate
 Likes to help people work together
 Leaves a good first impression

F **COORDINATOR**



Organised
 Good at communicating what people want
 Provides a service and can deliver what people need
 Works well with others
 Willing to help when needed
 Patient and compassionate
 Pulls people together
 Gets things done on time and budget

G **EXPLORER** 

Inclined to investigate, eager for knowledge, extremely curious and inquiring
 Practical
 Likes to understand why things happen
 Good at researching/experimenting
 Comfortable working alone
 Likes to solve problems and puzzles
 Good at listening to others' ideas
 Resilient
 Likes to be the first to know and understand
 Can be competitive
 Enjoys finding information

H **COMMUNICATOR** 

Confident
 Understands the audience and the importance of communicating information to different people
 Good with words and languages
 Good at simplifying complex information
 Good listener
 Emphatic
 Good at engaging audiences
 Open minded

I **MANAGER** 

Motivated
 Understands how to motivate individuals and groups
 Adaptable
 Team orientated
 Open minded
 Encourages discussion and listens
 Compassionate
 Good organiser
 Good with money

J **INFLUENCER** 

Diplomatic
 Good at explaining so that people understand
 Good with detail
 Can work on their own or in a team
 Good at finding and reviewing information
 Can think outside the box
 Thorough and reliable
 Polite
 Has leadership qualities

K **DEVELOPER** 

Creative
 Interested in the world around them and how to make it better
 Understands the needs of others
 Likes to make things better (products and services)
 Can work on own or in a team
 Enjoys learning new things
 Flexible and practical
 Inquisitive and strong willed
 Problem solver

L **QUALITY CONTROLLER** 

Trustworthy
 Natural sense of justice
 Good with detail
 Curious
 Good at managing risk
 Fair, honest and ethical
 Proactive
 Challenges the way things have always been done
 Likes to keep people safe



INNOVATOR



**KATE
WHEATLEY**

JOB TITLE

Aerospace Performance Engineer,
Rolls-Royce Plc

WHO AM I?

I love to solve engineering problems, balancing creativity with taking time to understand the engineering problem, requirements, and constraints. Training to think outside the box can be very powerful.

WHAT DO I DO?

I'm part of an innovative capability within Rolls-Royce who are continuously pushing for improved engine performance to stay at the forefront of technology and improve our environment with more efficient, cleaner engines. We oversee all engines on a high-level system point of view, so we can be the 'glue' for teams working in engine sub-systems and component design.

PATHWAYS

A-level Maths, Further Maths and Physics; Apprenticeship at Rolls-Royce; BEng in Aerospace Engineering (UWE) EAL Level 2; Aerospace & Aviation Engineering (UCW) EAL Level 4 Diploma; Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing (UCW).

THE LIFE I LIVE

In my day-to-day life I'm still an aerospace fanatic and I love visiting airshows, museums, or a bit of plane-spotting. I also enjoy the chaos of travelling and visiting different corners of the world, just as much as I do being at home with a cup of coffee, and catching up with an old friend.



**RACHEL
DONAGHEY**

JOB TITLE

Service Introduction Manager, NATS

WHO AM I?

I enjoy helping people grow, finding creative solutions, and inspiring progress. These traits fit my work because they allow me to build strong relationships, encourage innovation, and create inclusive environments that empower everyone to succeed.

WHAT DO I DO?

I lead the introduction of new systems or equipment into 24/7 operational environments, ensuring safety and seamless delivery. My work improves efficiency and reduces risk. What I enjoy most is collaborating across teams to solve complex challenges and create innovative solutions to the issues we face when working in a 24/7 operational environment.

PATHWAYS

A-level English Literature and Health & Social Care; BSc Maritime Business; MSc Aviation Safety Risk Management; Level 7 Professional Safety Apprenticeship.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I've been a die-hard Taylor Swift fan since seeing her *Speak Now* tour in 2010, and I never dull my love for all things girly while working in a male-dominated industry. I'm also proudly dyslexic, and I use my experiences to show that challenges don't define you, they can drive creativity and success.



COACH



**LILWEN
QUAN-NICHOLLS**

JOB TITLE

Software Engineering Apprentice,
Airbus Defence and Space

WHO AM I?

In the past, I put effort into my interpersonal skills, and I now enjoy teamworking just as much as (if not more than) working alone. I think 'personality types' can make traits seem permanent, which they don't always need to be.

WHAT DO I DO?

I am a full-stack web developer, so I spend most of the day programming for my team's software suite. I've always loved how I can see the effects of my work with programming. I think of a logical solution, write it in code, and it becomes something real.

PATHWAYS

A-level Maths, Computer Science and Further Maths; Diploma in Sporting Excellence (fencing).

THE LIFE I LIVE

In my spare time, I am a competitive fencer. I've always enjoyed the tactical-ness of the sport (a similar focus on problem solving that got me into programming). I also enjoy researching history. There's something fascinating about trying to get into the minds of people who lived a completely different life at a completely different time.



**RADHIA
MARYAM SUBRATTY**

JOB TITLE

Aerospace Engineering Degree
Apprentice, Rolls-Royce Plc

WHO AM I?

I reflect both a 'Manager' and 'Coach' personality type although my passion is for creating solutions to problems through numbers and design processes which I use in my design engineering tasks. During university projects I enjoy taking on a project management role as well as working collaboratively with a team to come up with innovative solutions. I believe I relate to 'Coach' the most as I love to work as a team and help other colleagues and classmates through different projects while also learning from them.

WHAT DO I DO?

As an apprentice, I most enjoy the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge I gain at university to real-life industry projects, while viewing how my work contributes to a bigger picture. I'm engaged in design, analysis and testing of engines, components and rigs to create solutions and optimisation.

PATHWAYS

A-level Maths, Further Maths and Physics; Level 2 and 4 Diplomas in Advanced Aerospace Engineering completed as part of my apprenticeship.

THE LIFE I LIVE

Alongside my apprenticeship, I tutor maths and physics students to help them achieve their potential. I also volunteer with the IMechE aerospace division, taking part in the UAS Challenge and leading projects that encourage innovation amongst young members. I also love to practice my creativity through baking.

C TRAINER



**ALICE
DAVIE**

JOB TITLE

Process Engineer Apprentice,
Walker Filtration

WHO AM I?

'Trainer' and 'Coach' link to what I want for my future. I would love to have my own apprentices or manage a team. 'Coordinator' fits to my actual job role. Process engineering is about planning new projects and improvements to manufacturing processes. This involves communication with other teams, as well as being thorough to all details of the plan.

WHAT DO I DO?

In my job, I improve the physical process of work, to make things more efficient, time wise, ergonomically and financially. I create SOPs, modify existing equipment, and bring in new machinery, tools or workspaces. I enjoy the problem-solving aspect of my job – coming up with various solutions to the same problem, then blending these options for the best result.

PATHWAYS

A-level Law (Distinction),
Criminology (B), Chemistry (E),
and Maths (U).

THE LIFE I LIVE

I love music, I've been to seven concerts in the last year, I take regular dance classes, I have a cat and seven fish, and I love styling outfits.



**TONI
AWOFESO**

JOB TITLE

Technology Degree Apprentice,
UBS

WHO AM I?

The 'Trainer' type suits me because I enjoy teaching others complex things simply. The 'Explorer' type also fits me as I am curious by nature and love exploring new places.

WHAT DO I DO?

As a UX Designer, I work on a large-scale app project involving user interviews, testing, accessibility reviews, and interface design. I love that my role lets me solve complex problems creatively – there's no single right answer, which makes everyday exciting.

PATHWAYS

A-level Psychology, Mathematics,
and Chemistry. I started applying to degree apprenticeships in Year 13 and landed one at my company and joined straight after sixth form.

THE LIFE I LIVE

Outside of work, I'm an avid runner. After only completing my first 5k in April, I took on the challenge of running the World's Deepest Marathon in October, a Guinness World Record attempt. As one of few women there, I hoped to show young girls that they can achieve anything they set their minds to.



**LAUREN
CARR**

JOB TITLE

Maintenance Apprentice, BAE Systems

WHO AM I?

I feel my personality fits quite well with the job I am training to do as the 'Investigator' personality helps when there are problems that have arisen from a breakdown.

WHAT DO I DO?

In my job role we are maintaining machines and checking the safety circuits through preventative maintenance and when a breakdown occurs electrically we investigate why it has happened and find a solution to the problem.

PATHWAYS

Higher National Diploma (HND) Electrical & Electronic Engineering (Level 5).



**MELISSA
RIGGS**

JOB TITLE

Technician Engineer, Troup Bywaters and Anders

WHO AM I?

I feel my personality matches the 'Investigator' type best because I've always been naturally very curious. I like to ask lots of questions and try to figure out how anything and everything works, which fits well with my role in engineering as it helps me stay motivated to keep learning and pushes me to search for creative solutions to the problems I face.

WHAT DO I DO?

In my role, I help to design building services in offices all over London. I focus mostly on the electrical systems, which means I design and create drawings showing lighting, power distribution, fire alarms, and more. This involves using software to calculate the systems, such as the cable sizes, and then different software to create the drawings in both 2D and 3D. I attend meetings with architects and other consultants and we all work together to design the building to accomplish the clients wishes. It's always really great seeing the designs come to life as they get installed on site. But my favourite part about the job is that there's always so much to learn. Building regulations and software are always changing and being updated, so it keeps me constantly adapting, which makes the role exciting.

PATHWAYS

BA (Hons) in Ballet Performance; Level 3 BTEC in Building Services Engineering via apprenticeship; LCIBSE EngTech via apprenticeship EPA; currently in Year 2 of a BEng (Hons) in Building Services Engineering via an apprenticeship.

THE LIFE I LIVE

Something a little different about me is that before I went into engineering, I actually trained to be a ballet dancer. I went to a full-time ballet school and when I graduated I went to America to dance professionally. When I returned home, I decided I wanted a big change which is when I entered into engineering through an apprenticeship. Ballet taught me so much about discipline, focus, and resilience, so even though my career now is completely different to what I ever expected, I still carry all those qualities with me every day. Outside of work, I am still very creative and love painting, crocheting, and doing gel nails, for fun. I also really make the most of the weekends, and try to go away whenever I can. I love exploring new cities, trying different food, and just walking around new places, taking it all in. I think having this mix of experiences and interests is really what makes me who I am.

E

CAMPAIGNER

GRACIE
LANE**JOB TITLE**

Electronics Hardware Engineer
Degree Apprentice, Airbus Defence
and Space

WHO AM I?

I think the personality types seem pretty accurate, especially 'Campaigner'. I like to think I am good at understanding others, how to motivate and help, and working alone or in groups.

WHAT DO I DO?

Training to become an electronic hardware engineer, I work with PCB in all areas (research and development, designing, and testing, etc). Due to working in the defence and space sector, it's not possible to share exactly what I do – that being said, working on projects that are going to save lives and protect the nation is an incredible feeling.

PATHWAYS

A-level Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Psychology. Two gap years working and enjoying life. One year of maths degree at university then changed to this apprenticeship.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I've always loved knowing how things work, and how to fix them, but my love of engineering took off after getting my first car – parts broke (as they do!) and I fixed it myself. However, I try to have a completely different life outside of work, keeping active and busy with everything from kickboxing and playing piano to reading and travelling.

ALEXIA
WILLIAMS**JOB TITLE**

Technical Lead, Rolls-Royce Plc

WHO AM I?

I think all the personality types are accurate to what I am like as a person – though the 'Campaigner' description, 'persuasive, good with words, organised and good at meeting deadlines, good listener, likes to help people work together', perhaps suits me best.

WHAT DO I DO?

I work to solve enterprise-wide issues that affect all partner companies working to deliver long-life assets to the customer. In my role, I lead projects that bring these individuals together to solve problems mainly affecting the availability of the product and/or the maintenance period.

PATHWAYS

BEng Aerospace Engineering with Manufacturing Apprenticeship (EAL); Level 2 Diploma in Aerospace and Aviation Engineering (EAL); Level 4 Diploma in Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing; MSc through Life System Sustainment Apprenticeship; APM Project Management qualification – Business and Marketing Strategies Specialisation.

THE LIFE I LIVE

Pursuing my apprenticeship and reaching outside of my company by joining networks and communities by social circle has drastically increased and as a result I have been invited to join lots of events and organisations to represent apprentices and women in engineering. If I hadn't had made the first step outside of my comfort zone and joined external networks the positions I hold externally to my role would never have happened. These external roles are what make me who I am today.

F

COORDINATOR



**CERISE
MANGAT**

JOB TITLE

Commercial Manager, EDF Energy, Hinkley Point C

WHO AM I?

As a Commercial Manager working in the nuclear construction industry the top three personality types are befitting of my role and the skills I display, especially 'Coordinator' - having the ability to communicate effectively, clearly and concisely, is pivotal when engaging with the Supplier.

WHAT DO I DO?

My working day varies between numerous elements of supply chain management, including contract administration, risk management, cost reporting, procurement/tendering, and engaging with our legal team, suppliers, and delivery and quality teams.

PATHWAYS

A-level Mathematics, Chemistry and Psychology; Extended Project Qualification (EPQ); Level 3 BTEC Diploma in Business; BSc (First Class) in Quantity Surveying & Commercial Management; RICS (Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors) APC Candidate.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I am working towards obtaining my chartership to become a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). I'm an ambassador and was previously Co-Country Lead of Somerset and the West of England with the Southwest Apprenticeship Ambassador Network, advocating for apprenticeships at schools, parliamentary events, and at HPC.



**EMILY
MACZKA**

JOB TITLE

Aerospace Engineering Degree Apprentice, GKN Aerospace

WHO AM I?

These personality types suit me fairly well. As a 'Coordinator' I can communicate well, I enjoy working with others, and I focus on completing tasks efficiently and on time.

WHAT DO I DO?

I work in aerospace manufacturing engineering, where I support the shop floor in any issues they may have, as well as taking part in ongoing improvement projects. I love how every day is different, and I like how I am able to see what I am working on in real life, as I can go down to the workshop to look at real aircraft parts or see how some of my projects may have made a real difference!

PATHWAYS

I went through the traditional further study route, completing three A-levels in Maths, Physics and Geography after my GCSEs, followed by my current degree apprenticeship.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I seem to like to keep myself busy! I regularly meet up with my friends and family, I love travelling to new places, I play handball and football casually, and I work a lot with explorer scouts. But as much as I enjoy keeping busy, I'm a big fan of a lie-in and you will rarely see me up early (at least willingly).



**SANTINA
AJDARI BUNTING**

JOB TITLE

Assistant Technician / Level 6 Civil Engineer Degree Apprentice, Arup

WHO AM I?

'Coordinator' closely relates to who I am as a person. As the leader of our events team within our employee-run network I distribute responsibilities and help to plan and execute themed events. I was also the Birmingham office Early Career rep in charge of engaging our 250 early careers through coordinating internal and external events.

WHAT DO I DO?

I develop geotechnical databases and was recently identified as a power user for a new software, producing geological cross-sections, and creating geotechnical plots to support engineering decisions. The growth of my technical skills has allowed me to contribute to high-profile projects in India, Saudi Arabia, and Uganda.

PATHWAYS

After my GCSEs I was the only one in 150 students to choose an apprenticeship; BTEC Level 3 Civil Engineering apprenticeship at Arup; currently studying for a Level 6 Civil Engineering Degree Apprenticeship at Warwick University (BEng in Civil and Infrastructure Engineering).

THE LIFE I LIVE

I used to play handball for Great Britain - U16, U19 and U21; this allowed me to visit many countries, including Kosovo, Uzbekistan, Spain, Portugal and Denmark. I am the youngest winner of the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Young Professional Awards.



EXPLORER



**EMILY
BUTTERWORTH**

JOB TITLE

Laboratory Scientist Apprentice - Microbiology, AstraZeneca

WHO AM I?

'Explorer', 'Developer', and 'Investigator' all describe me well. I'm curious, always asking "why", and love finding patterns and creative solutions. My work in microbiology lets me constantly learn, while clinical development and quality roles have challenged me to grow and problem-solve across pharma.

WHAT DO I DO?

I investigate complex scientific questions and collaborate across departments to solve microbiology challenges. I enjoy developing new approaches, exploring ideas, and seeing how our work contributes to patient safety and advances in medicine.

PATHWAYS

A-level Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics (AAB); I considered medicine, volunteered at a pharmacy, but chose a career where I could be closer to scientific discovery.

THE LIFE I LIVE

Outside of studying towards my degree, I enjoy painting and art – creativity isn't limited to one field! Balancing this with my scientific work inspires me and shows you can be both creative and curious in science and life.



**TONI
AWOFESO**

JOB TITLE

Technology Degree Apprentice, UBS

WHO AM I?

The 'Explorer' type fits me as I am curious by nature and love exploring new places. The 'Trainer' type also suits me because I enjoy teaching others complex things simply.

WHAT DO I DO?

As a UX Designer, I work on a large-scale app project involving user interviews, testing, accessibility reviews, and interface design. I love that my role lets me solve complex problems creatively – there's no single right answer, which makes everyday exciting.

PATHWAYS

A-level Psychology, Mathematics, and Chemistry. I started applying to degree apprenticeships in Year 13 and landed one at my company and joined straight after sixth form.

THE LIFE I LIVE

Outside of work, I'm an avid runner. After only completing my first 5k in April, I took on the challenge of running the World's Deepest Marathon in October, a Guinness World Record attempt. As one of few women there, I hoped to show young girls that they can achieve anything they set their minds to.



COMMUNICATOR



**AISHA
KUKOYI**

JOB TITLE

Undergraduate Engineer, Dyson

WHO AM I?

The 'Communicator' type suits me well. Presenting my work to those without technical knowledge has made me skilled at simplifying complex ideas and adapting how I communicate based on who I am talking to.

WHAT DO I DO?

Since I change teams every six months (for the first two years) the work I do varies quite drastically. I'm currently in my third team, Motor Drives. My work involves using MATLAB/Simulink to run simulations and I will eventually work in the labs to replicate the results of my simulations. I enjoy being able to move teams every six months as it gives me the opportunity to learn a lot and meet new people.

PATHWAYS

A-levels Maths, Further Maths, Design & Technology; EPQ on the impact of AI on the Cybersecurity Sector; Apprenticeship – Employer sponsored MEng Engineering at Dyson.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I've spoken at the Cheltenham Literature festival about designing the world around us. I also took part in a 'Question Time' for British Science Week and talked about how to get more young people into STEM. I'm a serial hobbyist, currently fixated on all things cameras, from digicams and camcorders to film cameras.



**JADE
KIMPTON**

JOB TITLE

Substation Commissioning Engineer, National Grid

WHO AM I?

My job heavily relies on teamwork, so communication and coordination are key. When we encounter a problem on site, we rely on the individual strengths of each team member to work as a team to solve these problems. I also relate with the 'Trainer' personality type, as it's important to understand how your team works and how we can get the best out of each other when working together.

WHAT DO I DO?

My role involves commissioning new substation equipment, whilst also maintaining our older substation assets, ensuring we have a reliable electricity transmission system. I'm also involved in the commissioning of renewable generation connections which involves connecting solar and wind farms onto the transmission network. On site we work with up to 400,000V so my career is also heavily focused on safety. I have an important role in maintaining a safe system of work for our staff, contractors and the public. My role combines practical hands-on engineering with theoretical problem solving.

PATHWAYS

A-level Physics, Biology, and Art. Level 4 apprenticeship as a substation engineer at National Grid, where I obtained a FdEng in Electrical Power Engineering.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I'm passionate about the outdoors and the environment, and my career lets me combine this with engineering to help tackle climate change. Outside of work, I stay active through the gym, running, yoga, and football, while enjoying time with friends and challenging misconceptions about women in engineering. I have also recently taken up playing football which now takes up most of my Sundays! I enjoy spending time with my friends, and we try to meet up weekly for either just a coffee or to go out for dinner. There is unfortunately still quite a big misconception that women aren't suited to engineering careers and this has often been my source of motivation throughout my career, to prove that women are, in fact, extremely well suited to engineering!

I

MANAGER

ABI
OWOLABI**JOB TITLE**

Civil Engineer, Mott MacDonald

WHO AM I?

My personality types are 'Manager', 'Coordinator' and 'Trainer'. These relate very well to what I do day-to-day as a civil engineer and mentor. I do like working with others and ensuring the success of a project through good coordination and management, but I also enjoy learning new skills and understanding others.

WHAT DO I DO?

I am a lead design engineer, working mainly within the water industry. I investigate and design solutions for minor and major water infrastructure schemes and what I enjoy most is the collaborative and investigative work. Every site is different and unique, and I'm constantly learning from, and engaging with, other disciplines to understand the full picture, which is especially interesting when that full picture is below ground.

PATHWAYS

A-level Maths, Art, and Physics; Civil Engineering degree apprenticeship; BEng Civil Engineering (First Class) degree.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I'm very passionate about being a STEM Ambassador and mentor. I enjoy travelling abroad and am trying to travel to 30+ countries before the age of 30 - I'm currently about halfway through! I also crochet and knit in my spare time and enjoy live music and attending concerts.

JOANNA
GEORGE**JOB TITLE**

Spacecraft Propellant Tank Stress Engineer, Airbus Defence and Space

WHO AM I?

I enjoy managing teams, and working towards a common goal, while always making sure to coordinate activities in a manner that does not overload the team. The work I do is very technical, and I will get into more management-based positions in the future.

WHAT DO I DO?

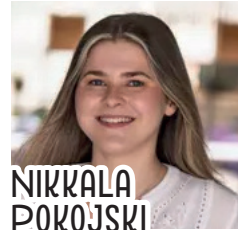
I am responsible for the design, stress analysis and overview of the manufacture of propellant tanks used on spacecraft that Airbus Defence and Space develops. I love how I can learn something new about engineering every day, and I can always apply what I study at university with the work I do! I am also an active STEM ambassador and involved in lots of initiatives across the site!

PATHWAYS

Scottish Advanced Highers in Maths, Physics, Chemistry, and English. HNC in Mechanical Engineering. Currently studying BEng in Mechanical Engineering.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I enjoy weightlifting, running, swimming, and crocheting in my free time. I love reading, listening to diverse music genres, and attending concerts. I also serve as President of a speaking club to develop my leadership skills.

NIKKALA
POKOJSKI**JOB TITLE**

Senior Software Engineer, Kainos

WHO AM I?

As a 'Manager', I'm motivated, adaptable and great at planning and organising. As an 'Influencer', I'm diplomatic and explain ideas clearly. As a 'Coordinator', I communicate effectively, unite teams and ensure tasks are completed on time. These qualities help me lead projects and deliver secure, high quality solutions.

WHAT DO I DO?

I design and build digital applications for the HM Passport Office project, helping UK citizens apply for passports easily, securely and quickly, with a focus on keeping data secure. I collaborate closely with other engineers to deliver efficient, reliable functionality. I love solving complex problems and enjoy that every day brings new challenges.

PATHWAYS

A-level Maths, Physics, and Software Systems Development; BSc Computing Systems at Ulster University; joined Kainos' Earn As You Learn Higher Level Degree Apprenticeship in 2021 as an Apprentice Software Engineer.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I'm a 2nd Dan black belt in Wado-Ryu karate and the national kumite coach for Northern Ireland, where I train athletes for competition. I also love playing and watching football, am passionate about technology, and always stay curious about new trends and challenges!

J

INFLUENCER



**DIYA
UPADHYAY**

JOB TITLE

Process Engineer Apprentice,
AstraZeneca

WHO AM I?

I feel they resemble me closely! Being part of a team means always working with others to solve problems whether that's in the lab or the plant or even a digital issue, which fits in with the 'Coach' personality. Being a good 'Communicator' and 'Influencer' is essential for explaining your ideas and presenting your work to a team.

WHAT DO I DO?

Working with different teams within the business from pilot plant to labs to learn how process engineering can be applied to make chemical processes smoother, safer and quicker. I enjoy the complexity of my job, from doing research and development in the lab to large change controls on plant. Every day I learn something new about engineering!

PATHWAYS

A-level Maths, Chemistry, and Physics; Currently on Degree Apprenticeship in Process Engineering (Chemical Engineering degree).

THE LIFE I LIVE

Building independence and time management is key, and my apprenticeship enables this. I work in the office Monday to Thursday, study for my degree on Fridays, and spend weekends with friends and family. This balance helps me live a busy, fulfilling life where I feel I make a positive impact.



**GEORGINA
ANDREW**

JOB TITLE

Civil Engineer, Amey

WHO AM I?

The 'Influencer' type matches me well. As a Civil Engineer, you need to be good with detail when preparing designs and be able to work proactively both on your own and within a team. In my current role, I mentor and lead several junior members of staff, so I often need to explain things well so they can complete design tasks.

WHAT DO I DO?

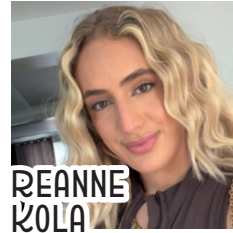
As a Civil Engineer with a technical specialism in bridge engineering, I lead the design of several structures refurbishment projects. My role is to ensure that our existing infrastructure remains resilient, safe and operational for the future. I enjoy the positive impact my work can have on communities and knowing it has a long-lasting legacy on the structures that create vital links on Scotland's busiest roads.

PATHWAYS

BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering Graduate Apprenticeship, University of Aberdeen; ICE EngTech MICE CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme; Certificate of Graduate Apprenticeship through the Association of Apprentices and Chartered Institute for Further Education ICE IEng MICE.

THE LIFE I LIVE

As a competitive highland dancer for nearly 20 years, I've travelled across the UK, Europe and the USA, competing and performing. I love dancing as it allows me to switch off from work and focus on self-improvement.



**REANNE
KOLA**

JOB TITLE

Level 4 Engineering Apprentice,
Airbus Defence and Space

WHO AM I?

My personality aligns well with the types - the 'Influencer' type reflects my ability to work effectively both independently and collaboratively, along with my strength in clearly communicating complex information.

WHAT DO I DO?

My role is dynamic, involving 10-week rotations across various departments, from shop floor technician duties to office-based engineering tasks. I particularly enjoy the engineering aspect, as it allows me to thrive on critical thinking and provides a strong sense of job satisfaction. My typical responsibilities include managing and networking for various assigned projects.

QUALIFICATIONS

Seven GCSEs and a distinction in a Level 3 Advanced Engineering course; after starting and leaving a degree apprenticeship and university, I am now at Airbus, undertaking a Level 4 Apprenticeship.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I compete in Olympic weightlifting and I am now training for a Hyrox and CrossFit competition.

K

DEVELOPER

DAISY
BOLTON**JOB TITLE**

Aerospace Engineering Degree
Apprentice, Rolls-Royce Plc

WHO AM I?

I believe the 'Developer' type closely matches my own beliefs about my personality. I'm currently working in Development, which involves learning new things and solving challenging problems.

WHAT DO I DO?

As an apprentice, I get to do rotational placements around the business, in areas including Repair, Design, Stress, and Development! I love contributing to real life projects and feel like I am making a difference. I enjoy interacting with lots of different functions to understand how products can come to life through problem-solving.

PATHWAYS

A-level Maths, Physics, and Economics; AS-level Further Maths; I started applying for apprenticeships in November of year 13, as I knew I had a passion for problem-solving and creativity, and was successful in the interview for the Rolls-Royce apprenticeship!

THE LIFE I LIVE

I love staying active through the gym, yoga, pilates, running, and long walks. I also enjoy baking, cooking, and spending quality time with friends and family. As a passionate advocate for apprenticeships and STEM, I often dedicate my free time to engaging with students about these opportunities.

EMILY
CARTER**JOB TITLE**

Apprentice Draughtsperson, Osbit

WHO AM I?

I think these personality types fit me very well as I develop ideas with engineers and go with a basic concept and model it into an item. The 'Investigator' type also fits me as I like problem-solving and doing puzzles and this fits in my job as I question everything – *why will it work, where could it fail?* etc.

WHAT DO I DO?

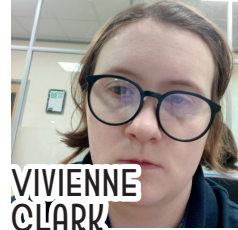
The main aspects of my job are creating 3D models on CAD software and also creating the technical drawing to follow. We create fabrication, assembly and parts drawings. The outcome of my job means the company is able to correctly manufacture products and fabrications we require.

PATHWAYS

I gained a Level 3 in Manufacturing Engineering at New College, Durham before starting my apprenticeship; since being here I have now gained a Level 4 in Mechanical Engineering.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I love everything outdoors, especially skiing and hiking, and I designed and built my own campervan.

VIVIENNE
CLARK**JOB TITLE**

Embedded Electronic Systems
Design and Development Degree
Apprentice, Airbus Defence and
Space

WHO AM I?

I match well with 'Developer', being able to develop new ideas, but also ensuring that the work is of the correct standard are very important qualities in an engineer.

WHAT DO I DO?

I have spent most of my apprenticeship working within the development of secure communication systems. I like to generate new ideas, and be involved in initiatives around the site. Currently, I am working as a Quality Assurance Engineer and have to ensure that anomalies that arise during the manufacture of spacecraft are dealt with effectively.

PATHWAYS

A-level Mathematics, Further Mathematics, and Physics; Extended Project Qualification; final year of BEng (Hons) Electronic Engineering.

THE LIFE I LIVE

I live in Portsmouth but was raised in North Yorkshire. Moving to Portsmouth to complete the apprenticeship was not easy, but I absolutely think it was worth it. I would advise that those interested in apprenticeships bear in mind that, if you are picky about the nature of the apprenticeship, that you may have to relocate some distance.

ERIN
MARSON**JOB TITLE**

Safety & Reliability Engineer,
Rolls-Royce Plc

WHO AM I?

My role mainly requires me to have a natural sense of judgement whilst remaining fair, honest and ethical. So I think the personality type of 'Quality Controller' fits me perfectly, as although I often challenge the way things have been done, I am responsible for keeping people safe.

WHAT DO I DO?

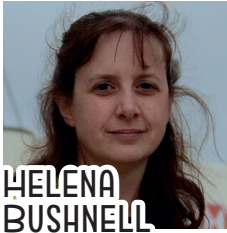
I work in the Safety & Reliability team for our in-service defence products. Most recently, my efforts keep the TP400-D6 engine flying, which powers the Airbus A400M cargo/transport aircraft. If there's an issue with the engine, it is my responsibility to complete the statistical analysis that determines the likelihood of the issue repeating. I also calculate the most extreme consequences that could occur, and inform each of the partner companies under the Europrop International (EPI) consortium.

PATHWAYS

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ); A-level Maths, Chemistry, and Physics; Level 6 Degree Apprentice (L2/L4 Diplomas); Level 7 Degree Apprentice (MSc in Aviation Safety Management, Risk and Regulation).

THE LIFE I LIVE

Outside of work, I love spending time near water, whether that's reading on a beach abroad, scuba diving with marine life or simply swimming in the pool at my local gym!

HELENA
BUSHNELL**JOB TITLE**

Senior Engineer, ICA (Industrial Control & Automation), Heathrow Airport Ltd

WHO AM I?

The 'Quality Controller' type sits best with me at the core of who I am. I'm very detail-orientated and I like to know 'everything' before I jump into a task. I think this stems from my time in a technical role, looking after the security doors at Heathrow, which very much involves 'keeping people safe'.

WHAT DO I DO?

As Senior Engineer ICA at Heathrow I lead a team of five system specialists covering such assets as CCTV, Access Control, Security Equipment, SCADA and BMS Systems. The best thing about my role/job is the place and the people. Heathrow has its own 'special buzz', which is why I've stayed for over 25 years!

PATHWAYS

A-level Maths, Physics, and Design Technology. 4 year apprenticeship scheme with Heathrow Airport, leading to Engineering Manufacture City & Guilds; Electrical Installation, Engineering Maintenance BTEC; National Certificate Engineering (ONC); Electrical/Electronic BTEC; Higher National Certificate Engineering (HNC) and Electrical/Electronic BTEC; Higher National Diploma Engineering (HND).

THE LIFE I LIVE

I love to travel, preferably on a cruise ship! I think it's the engineer in me - "How does it all work? How do they fit all the food on?"

KATY
HOSSACK**JOB TITLE**

Electromechanical Engineering Degree Apprentice, Airbus Defence and Space

WHO AM I?

The 'Quality Controller' personality type fits well within the tasks an engineer would be expected to perform, being such an accuracy-driven discipline with real-world impact.

WHAT DO I DO?

My job is incredibly varied, and the projects I'm involved in depend on the department I'm working for at the time. Currently, within the mechanical analysis department, I run FEA simulations to model real-life processes, predicting response and categorising uncertainties which have not been captured, often prior to real-life testing.

PATHWAYS

A-level Maths, Further Maths, Physics, and Chemistry. Currently studying BEng Electromechanical Engineering.

THE LIFE I LIVE

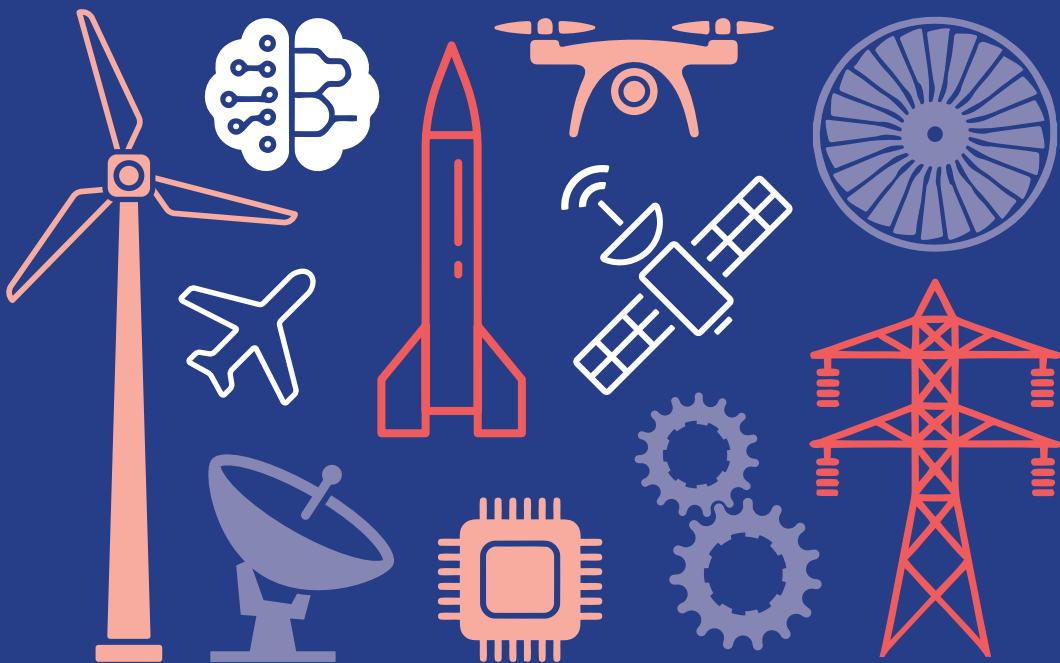
I have gained so much independence from moving across the country for the apprenticeship programme, and have taken it as an opportunity to try new things. From promoting STEM and meeting VIPs, to travelling around to different Airbus sites, alongside project work and university work, it has been busy and I have enjoyed every moment!

YOUR NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.



Scan the QR code or visit
www.myskillsmylife.org.uk
to explore over 1,200 inspiring real-life
role models in STEM. Discover more
exciting career paths, browse company
profiles, and find out where your
unique skills could take you!



wise

info@wisecampaign.org.uk **wisecampaign.org.uk**

© 2025 The Institution of Engineering and Technology. The Institution of Engineering and Technology (the "IET") is registered as a Charity in England & Wales (No. 211014) and Scotland (No. SC038698). Savoy Place, London, WC2R 0BL, United Kingdom