

International Women In Engineering Day 2019

For this year's International Women In Engineering Day, we spoke to Ørsted's Senior Technical Project Lead and 2019 YEP of the Year Award Winner, Beatrice d'Eufemia about her journey into engineering, what she enjoys about her job, and what advice she would give to others.

Journey into Engineering

I did my GCSEs in the UK but I actually ended up doing the last 2 years of school in Cairo as my mother got posted to Egypt. At school I loved Physics but struggled a bit with Maths, so I initially thought I wouldn't be able to do Engineering at university. Despite that, I've always been passionate about the environment and wanting to improve people's lives so I applied to do Environmental Engineering at UCL. I actually didn't get the grades I needed so I wrote them a very heartfelt letter trying to persuade them to let me in – saying if you want me to do extra papers I'll do them, I've got big ambitions and big ideas – and it worked!

After my Bachelors I decided I wanted to get into the Energy sector – so I did a Masters of Science in Energy and Environmental Engineering at the University of Sheffield. I didn't want to be too specific about the type of energy, I wanted to keep myself flexible and do generic energy, so we did study wind, solar, oil & gas etc. but it was the forward-thinking part of the renewable energy sector held particular appeal to me.

When it came to finding a job, I was most interested in the offshore wind sector because they seemed to be developing the fastest and developing the most and it seemed to be one of the renewable energy industries that was expanding the fastest. I literally googled "best in offshore wind" and found Ørsted, or DONG Energy as it was known at the time. I applied for the graduate programme because I didn't know exactly what kind of role I wanted to do, I just knew the kind of industry I wanted to be in and I knew roughly the kind of things I wanted to be doing.

What I enjoy about the job

As well as the obvious draw of working in a growing, clean tech industry, I like variety, and being in an area that focuses on innovation is very exciting. People in Ørsted in general are really open and really looking forward to new innovations – so along with the challenges of trying to work in entirely new ways it's also exciting and fun! I also really like working for a really big company as there are a lot of people, which can be quite daunting, but it can also be quite interesting – because there are so many different people, different backgrounds, different parts of the business. I have worked with Ørsted for four years and there are still parts of the business I don't even know about and am still trying to fill in the gaps and meet different people. So that's definitely one of the things I enjoy the most.

Advice for Others

My advice to someone studying or at the beginning of their career in the Energy sector would be to be flexible and find a job that you enjoy! If you don't know exactly what you want to do then a graduate programme can be a really great start as you get lots of exposure in a large company.

Beatrice d'Eufemia,
Senior Technical Project Lead at Ørsted and 2019 YEP of the Year Award Winner

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