

CASE STUDY



SARA MCGOWAN

Sara McGowan is a Building Services Engineer.



She says

“I work for Arup as a Mechanical Building Services Engineer. This means I design environmental control systems for buildings – like the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. My main aims are to ensure that occupants are comfortable and that the systems are energy efficient.

“At school I did physics, chemistry, maths, languages, history, English and art Scottish Standard Grades (like English GCSEs) and then went on to do physics, maths, English, French and art Scottish Highers.

“My favourite subjects were Art and Physics - a strange combination - so I had no idea what I could do that would allow me to do science, but still be creative! I then found a degree in Building Design Engineering, which comprised Architecture, Structural and Services Engineering at Strathclyde University in Glasgow. I chose to specialise in Services as I am particularly interested in 'low energy/green' design and I feel Services design has the most influence in this.

“Engineering is a fantastic subject if you love science and want to be creative - it's all about applying science to solve problems in a creative and innovative way.

“After graduating I joined Arup. I have worked on such diverse jobs as a rowing clubhouse, law courts, offices, and most recently the Greater London Authority Building in London (now known as City Hall). I started as a graduate engineer, progressed to being a Lead Services Engineer in charge of a small team and then became a project manager, responsible for the whole engineering design on buildings (Services, Structure and Specialists). I have recently been promoted to Associate.

“I get a real buzz out of my job - seeing a finished building and being able to say 'I did that' is a fantastic feeling.”

If you think you might like a job like Sara's talk to your careers advisor at school or visit your local Connexions partnership. Connexions is an advice and guidance service. You can find your local Connexions partnership by logging onto www.connexions.gov.uk.

You can also check out her employers website at <http://www.arup.com>

www.planet-science.com