

School of  
Engineering

Lancaster  
University



Enjoy  
problem  
solving?

ENGINEER YOUR FUTURE  
PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY

CAREERS IN SOFTWARE & TECHNOLOGY

At HMGCC, we design, deliver and provide communication systems  
and technical solutions that help keep the country safe.

# Placements, Careers and Employability



The School of Engineering prides itself on its engagement with industry and other external organisations locally, regionally and nationally, with very many close relationships developed over the years. We understand what employers are looking for in our students and graduates and how the skills and experiences developed through our degree programmes relate to the workplace.

Our dedicated Academic Employability Champions in Engineering are therefore well-placed to provide tailored one-to-one support to students and graduates and to help them through the process of applying for placements and graduate roles.

One of the things I really like to see is the step-change in capability and knowledge gained from contextual experience and how this is applied to benefit the remaining years of a students degree programme following an industrial placement.

At Lancaster University, we are here to help you discover the path to the future you desire. Throughout your time in the School of Engineering, you will have the opportunity to access a variety of experiences, both within the curriculum or external to your studies that will enable you to gain some work experience.

The School of Engineering has its own Academic Employability Champions that offer general industry advice, review CV's and cover letters and promote opportunities. Careers and Employability is a topic we introduce in your weekly first-year tutorials. We also have a dedicated University Careers Advisor who runs CV workshops, application form checks and practice psychometric test and mock job interviews.

## Examples of experiences available to you

- Industrial visits to both local and regional companies
- Vacation Industrial Internships
- Summer vacation Research Bursaries (EPSRC)
- Term time opportunities to fit around your timetable
- For MEng students –
  - Two full-time industrial driven projects in year's 3 and 4.
  - Industry and research led final year group projects.

# Industrial Experience

We actively encourage you to take time out of your studies to complete work experience in industry. Many employers value practical experience just as much as high quality qualifications. By gaining contextual industrial experience, you will acquire additional skills and enhance your CV in a competitive job market. Most placements are paid which you can use to supplement your studies. It is also a great way to explore new parts of the country or even the world as well as starting to build your professional network.

## **Amrit Phull** **MEng (Hons) Mechatronic Engineering**

11-month Industrial Placement  
at Toyota Motor Manufacturing  
UK (TMUK) – Engineering  
Placement Student

**TOYOTA**  
MANUFACTURING UK



Before starting at TMUK, I had no idea what to expect – I didn't know much about paint shops in Automotive Manufacturing and had certainly never seen one before. I gained a crucial understanding of all the processes involved in removing a car shell, cleaning it, painting it, making it watertight and finally inspecting and repairing the body. I was responsible for some huge projects throughout the year, covering quality, health and safety, and environment. I was also given the opportunity to present to managers at both TMUK and Toyota Motors Europe (TME).

Throughout the placement, TMUK provided training courses and work-based assignments designed to help you grow as a professional. I learned about Toyota Production System (TPS) principles, presentation skills and Plan Do Check Act (PDCA), all of which I then used in my day-to-day projects.

I was pleasantly surprised by how much faith the company put in me. Even though I was younger and less experienced than others in

the team, I was given huge responsibility and was able to provide feedback to my manager regularly through 1 to 1s.

Towards the end of my placement, when things were less disrupted by the pandemic, I was able to help with some outreach for Women in Engineering, helping primary-school aged girls to understand what engineering is and show that STEM careers are truly for everyone.

The skills I have gained throughout my year at TMUK are invaluable. Being thrown into the real world allowed me to develop professional skills including stakeholder management, presentations and working with contractors. I understand how academic modules link to real-world projects and I have realised that a general engineering 1st year allows you to communicate and make considered decisions in multidisciplinary teams. I have gained massive confidence in my own skills and have faith in myself to finish my final year strongly.

Here are some examples of destinations of our recent year in industry placements.



**Evie Stokes**  
**MEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering**

12 Month Efficiency Engineer Industrial Placement at EDF Energy Heysham 1 Power Station



Lancaster University's School of Engineering has a good-standing relationship with Heysham 1/Heysham 2 Power Stations; in the past EDF has advertised placement opportunities solely to Lancaster University students. The School were helpful in terms of getting my CV application ready and gave advice on how to make it relevant for each job that I apply for.

To apply for the placement, I had to submit my CV and a cover letter, and I was then invited to complete online assessments. Next was a telephone interview and after being successful, I was invited to an interview. To prepare, I contacted a couple of my lecturers for some advice (they're always happy to help!), as well as researching the company, its values, and the technical aspects of power station efficiency.

My interview was a success and I was placed within the Efficiency Department at Heysham 1 Power Station, which consisted of myself and the Efficiency Engineer, which meant I had to take on a lot of responsibility. During the 12 months I had to monitor plant losses, troubleshoot unexpected problems, and analyse generation trends to support safe generation.

I had an active role on plant - I would say I was on plant 60% of the time I was there. This meant that any time I had at my desk was precious in terms of making progress with projects, liaising with other departments, and conducting meetings. I personally really enjoyed the physical aspect of the job; going on plant and seeing the systems that I'd learnt

about during my degree, such as heat exchangers and centrifugal pumps, and being able to apply my knowledge and develop it felt really rewarding.

During my placement, I supported critical path tasks during two refuelling outages and a statutory outage, lead investigations into steam losses and I was also able to get involved with EDF's Industrial Placement Society, where we organised networking events for placement students working all over the country with EDF.

I really recommend applying for an industrial placement if you can, I've gained so much knowledge about an industry that I wouldn't have learnt during my degree, as well as further developing crucial engineering skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving in an industrial environment. I now feel more prepared to apply for graduate opportunities and continue my engineering career.



# Other opportunities available

## Science and Technology Internship Programme

All current Science and Technology students and recent graduates\* can apply for relevant paid work experience through the Faculty of Science and Technology Internship Programme.

Internships are a great way for businesses to address a skill or resource shortage by benefiting from up-to-date scientific skills and knowledge from our students, who gain the valuable industry experience that will enhance your potential employability.

## Careers Fairs and Events

We hold several career focussed events throughout the year. There is an annual Careers Fair attracting 100+ employers as well as a dedicated Science and Technology Careers Week. The week consists of a number of sector specific panel events, employability skills sessions and specialist sessions covering niche careers for STEM students. Careers fairs, whether virtual and physical, are a great way to meet and find out more from employers about potential roles and more importantly, what they are looking for. These events are a great way to discover where your career may go.



*\* The Careers and Employability Service team is dedicated to helping you along the way, with access to all of our services and resources after you graduate for as long as you need them, for free*

## Average starting salaries of Lancaster Engineering graduates\*

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Chemical Engineering:  
£26,566

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Mechanical Engineering:  
£27,933

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Nuclear Engineering:  
£31,000

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Electrical & Electronic Engineering:  
£28,343

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Mechatronic Engineering:  
£27,000

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\*Graduate Outcomes Survey