



Engineering
our future

Name: Malcolm Montgomery

Age: 28

Job Role: Senior Network Technician

What does your job involve?

My job involves managing our gas installations, and ensuring they are maintained and improved in accordance with the latest standards. This could involve installing new equipment, conducting non-routine operations, and recently we have de-commissioned a lot of our gas holders. I am also on the rota for the out of hours Standby Engineer. This means for a period of one week I deal with any emergency faults on the network – sometimes these can happen in the middle of the night.

Day to day the work varies considerably. This includes issuing permits as the site authorising engineer and ensuring there is a safe control of operations, local management of the Pressure System Safety Regulation inspections, and dealing with faults where there is a mechanical or design fault on the equipment. There is typically always at least one project on the go, so I will be getting the design modifications approved, organising personnel, and writing and approving procedures for non-routine operations as required.

How long have you been working at National Grid?

Four years

What inspired you to study engineering?

I have always been interested in understanding how things work. Engineering is about doing this, and then making things better. I also like how engineering adds real tangible value to society and the economy.

Detail your career path so far

I studied on National Grid's graduate training programme for 18 months. This allowed me to work in three different departments for six months each, and gave me a great insight into how the company operates. I then moved to my current role within Network Maintenance where I have gradually taken on more and more responsibilities. My next career target is to achieve chartered status as an engineer.

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Would you encourage others to consider an engineering career?

Absolutely. Engineering is hugely important in turning ideas into products and wealth, whether it is your car, your alarm clock, your gas supply or even the paint on your wall, all have been designed and engineered. When you consider the challenges posed by modern life, and particularly with the challenges posed by climate change, I think engineering is a place where you can make a real difference.

How would you sum up your job in three words?

Challenging, varied and fulfilling.