



Engineering
our future

Name: Beth Warnock

Age: 26

Job Role: Power System Engineer, Transmission Requirements.

What does your job involve?

The 'Transmission Requirements' department is responsible for securing plans for outages on the electricity network. Outages are undertaken on the electricity network for maintenance work, however they need to be carried out without disrupting customers or damaging any of our other equipment. It is my responsibility to look at the outage plan and to find a solution to any possible 'trip' or 'overload' that could occur on the network. Some outages may also mean we need to restrict electricity generation or require generation in a certain area. Planned outages also cost the company money so it is my responsibility to see how we can minimise this cost. All of this means that there is a lot of problem solving and room for creative thinking in my job.

How long have you been working at National Grid?

Three years

What inspired you to study engineering?

I decided to study physics at university because I wanted to understand how the universe ticked. When I was younger I always wanted to know how things worked and even now that hasn't changed. I always thought I would have an engineering job and I always found electricity quite exciting, if truth be told I still do!

Detail your career path so far

I started on the National Grid graduate scheme three years ago. My first six-month placement was in our Transmission Finance department. My second six-month placement was in the demand forecasting team where I was given a project at looking at the effect of geo-magnetically induced currents on our electricity system. It was a lot of fun because I got to do research into what they were and how they affected our and other countries electricity networks. My final placement was in the transmission requirements department which is where I took my first post 18 months ago.

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Would you encourage others to consider an engineering career?

Of course! It's such a rewarding industry to work in. You are literally the people who keep the lights on. Our country would not cope if was not for the engineers who work here. Every technology has had an engineers input and you get the chance to shape what the technology will look like in the future.

How would you sum up your job in three words?

Rewarding, challenging and interesting!