

BCECA members provide engineering, design, procurement, project management and construction services to the process and energy industries all over the world. Wood's Hannah Smith lifts the lid on her pathway to success with a leading engineering contractor

Wood provides performance-driven solutions throughout the asset life cycle, from concept to decommissioning across a broad range of industrial markets, including upstream, midstream, and downstream oil & gas, power & process, environment and infrastructure, clean energy, mining, nuclear, and general industrial sectors.

My story so far

"I graduated from Loughborough University with a Batchelor's degree in chemical engineering before joining Wood in 2014. Since then, I have worked on projects at the front end engineering and design (FEED) stage, on pre-FEED and at the engineering procurement and contruction phase (EPC). These projects have spanned refining, oil and gas processing and water treatment for a range of clients. In my role as a control and instrumentation engineer, I've worked on various projects with several different teams. My strengths are problem solving, logical thinking, organisation and meeting deadlines.

My responsibilities have expanded to include functional safety on projects and I am now certified as a functional safety engineer with TUV. This role involves the creation, management and communication of the safety case for a project. Functional safety engineers evaluate hazards and risk and create and manage the safety plan throughout the life-cycle of a project."

What inspired me to become a control and instrumentation engineer?

"I really enjoy problem solving and have always been attracted by a challenge. At school, I took maths, chemistry, physics and product design. I chose to study chemical engineering because it combined all these subjects. While studying for my degree, I was drawn to the instrument and process control modules. My interest in the contracting industry was aroused during a careers fair. I was excited at the prospect of working on different projects, with different people, across a broad range of industries. Since joining Wood, I haven't been disappointed."

Where to next?

"You can't really describe yourself as a professional engineer, until you've registered with the Engineering Council. I'm working towards registration as a Chartered Engineer and full membership of the Institution of Engineering and Technology. I aim to grow my experience in functional safety and develop my skills to the level where I can lead a control and instrumentation team on an EPC project."

For more information about career prospects in the engineering contracting, sector contact BCECA at 10th Floor, Camelford House, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE17TP

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