



Employ.Eng Newsletter

Issue 7: July 2022

Welcome

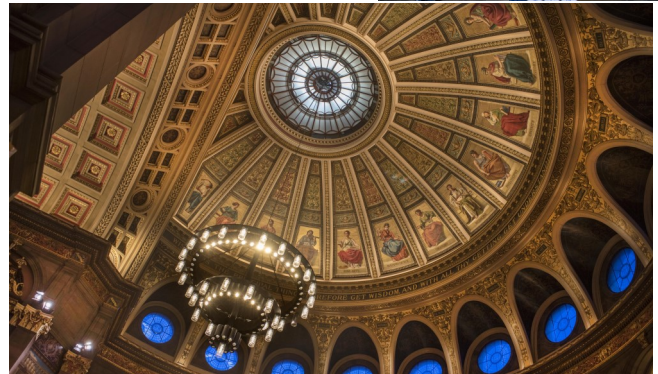
Welcome to this issue of the School of Engineering Employer Engagement (Employ.Eng) newsletter! The newsletter is produced by the School of Engineering Placement Team three times a year with the aim to keep our employer partners informed about placements and other student focussed activities that might be of interest.

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Receiving this newsletter

You can download copies of our newsletters and find information on how subscribe/unsubscribe to our mailing list on our webpage: <https://www.employ.eng.ed.ac.uk/employeng-newsletters>



The ceiling of McEwan Hall, our venue for graduation.

How to get involved

Placements

We are currently looking for companies interested in hosting placements starting in 2023 for the following disciplines:

- Chemical Engineering
- Electronics & Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

More information on page 2.

Offer to be interviewed by our 1st year students

See our LinkedIn post for more information.

- <https://edin.ac/3OVFUz>

Attend the Careers in Engineering Fair

- See page 6

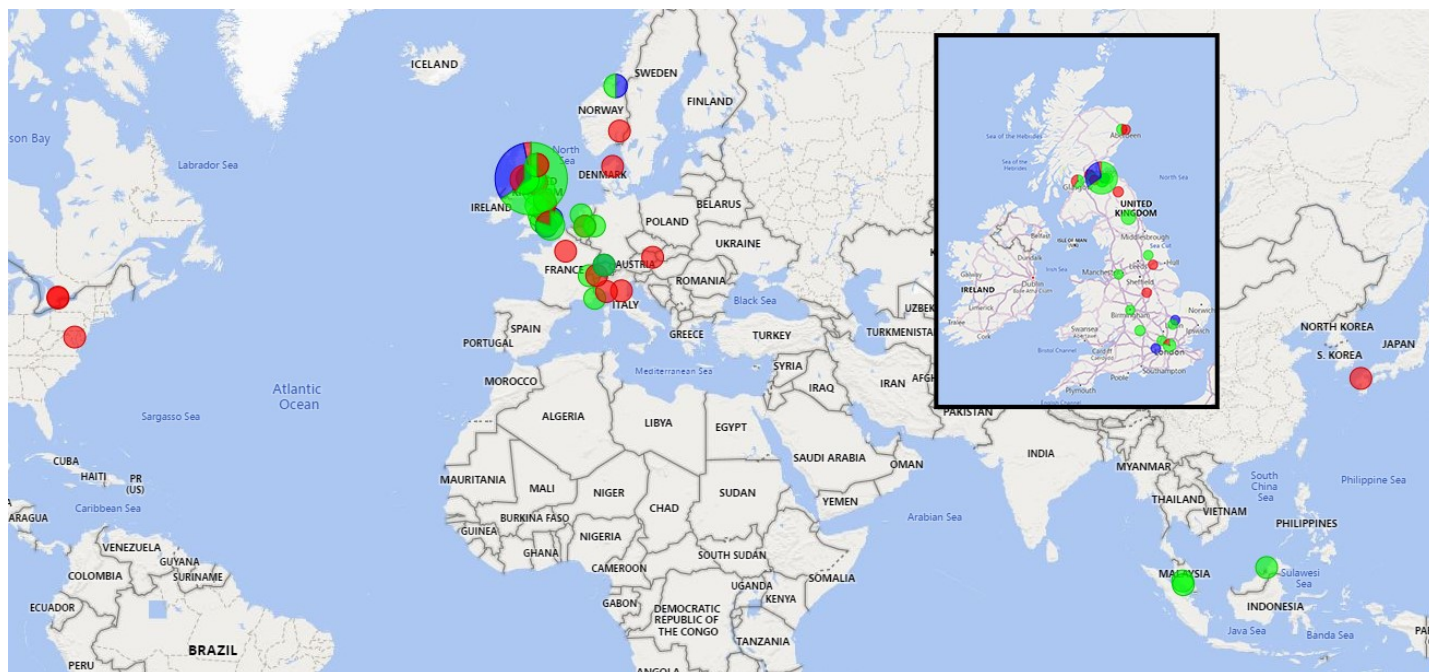
Follow the School of Engineering on Social Media

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Industrial and Overseas Placements



Location of School of Engineering credit bearing Industrial and Overseas Placements in academic year 2021/22. Red - Chemical Engineering, Blue - Electronics & Electrical Engineering, Green - Mechanical Engineering.

The encouraging picture we saw emerging last summer continued for academic year 2021/22. 102 of our students (an increase from 93) undertook a placement working with 80 different host organisations both in the UK and 12 other countries. As travel restrictions eased, students with overseas placements were able to travel and 80% were able to spend at least a part of their placement working inside their host organisation. One of our mechanical engineering students who worked in France is featured in our placement article starting on page 3. His enthusiasm for the international experience is clear. Our students on placement in the UK also appreciated that they were able to spend more time working on-site rather than remotely.

Looking forward to Academic year 22/23, 51 placements have started this summer which is also up on this time last year. We are particularly grateful to those chemical engineering companies who reached out to us at the last minute when two placements were cancelled at the last minute. As the next academic year approaches we will be contacting our existing placement partners to see if you are willing to host a placement starting in January 2023 for Mechanical Engineering and summer 2023 for Chemical and Electronics and Electrical Engineering. We are very keen for our placement numbers to reach or surpass pre-pandemic levels, so if you have never hosted a placement and would be interested in finding out more, please email Engineering.Placements@ed.ac.uk and we'd be happy to talk to you about it.

Further information about our placement programmes is available in our overview document which you can download [here](#).

New Student Recruitment videos

This week the School has been releasing our new student recruitment videos via social media. There are videos for each of the different disciplines and our general engineering entry route. You can see the full videos on the School's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDIE-GBjzmBbR-WleWecw47x7dkgYHvKm>

International Placements: a conversation with Tetra Engineering



Carlos Alonso Flores, exploring his host country



Carlos Alonso Flores, one of our Mechanical Engineering MEng students, is currently finishing his placement with the Nice-based branch of the Tetra Engineering Group, who are consulting engineers on power generation boilers and steam systems. We sat down to talk about his international placement experience alongside his supervisor Mark Taylor, who has been looking after placement students at the company for over 10 years.

When asked why he had made the decision to work at Tetra, Carlos explained that he had been keen to work for a smaller, more specialised company. 'I was looking to explore a more practical, hands-on approach. In a small company like Tetra, you end up learning about what everyone is doing and I've picked up knowledge of almost every side of the business'. Carlos has been involved in testing, developing Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) techniques, contracts, client relations, recruitment and sales. 'I was quite nervous the first time I was asked to call a client to offer our services, I thought I wouldn't have enough technical knowledge'. This opportunity however, allowed him to realise the extent of the skillset he had acquired: a situation that Mark is very familiar with.

'We try to put an emphasis on transferrable skills', he explains. 'We give students as many opportunities to get involved as possible. Whatever training we give the students, we make sure that they get the opportunity to practice the tasks a few times so that they improve.' Having a placement student's perspective also adds a degree of reciprocity to the learning process. 'It helps to have a fresh pair of eyes' he explains 'and it helps to ensure that we always try to improve our processes and that the job is done to a very high standard.'

When asked about the advantages of hiring international students, Mark believed that it was a great way to foster development whilst also offering opportunities for a company to develop and expand their bandwidth. After a great experience with their first placement student, the Tetra team quickly realised that students, while lacking experience, pick up skills very fast. 'Being an international facing company, hiring English speaking students meant that students could be more heavily involved in report writing', Mark continues. Hiring multilingual students such as Carlos, who speaks Spanish fluently, has been of great value for the company. 'We've relied heavily on Carlos taking the lead to talk to our new client in Spanish and it's opened up new markets and possibilities for us.'

When Carlos was asked what he thought he had gained from the international dimension of his placement, he told us that gaining work experience in a foreign country (and language) had been an excellent learning experience. 'Living in

France has forced me to overcome my shyness and get out of my comfort zone. I learned that it didn't matter that my French wasn't perfect, it matters that I got my message across. I think that my communication skills are better for it.'

When asked what insights Mark would give to companies thinking of taking placement students for the first time, he recommends employers give real thought to what meaningful work students will undertake while at the company.

'If you can find a way to centre both student and business needs at the same time, then everyone's a winner', he concludes.

To find out more about taking on a placement student get in touch with our Placement Team at Engineering.Placements@ed.ac.uk.

Interview with Blossom Tariro Kafumbata



Blossom Tariro Kafumbata

To mark International Women in Engineering Day (Thursday 23 June 2022), the School interviewed third year chemical engineering student Blossom Tariro Kafumbata, about what sparked her interest in engineering, and how this carries through to her work on sustainable engineering projects today.

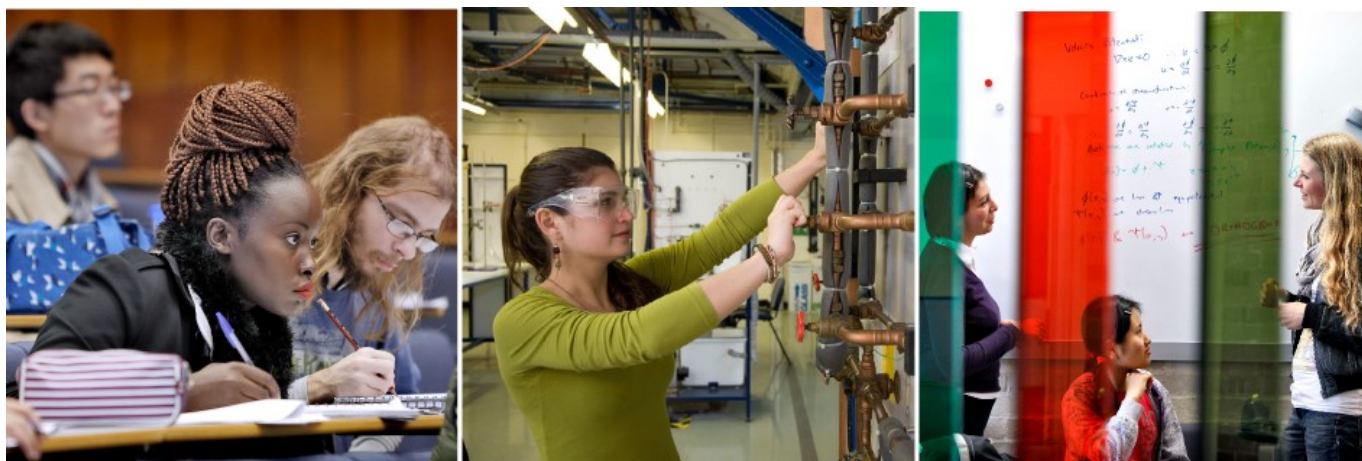
In the interview Blossom talks about how her early education in a small town in Zimbabwe fostered a curiosity for Industry, and how her interest in the industrial revolution period at school lead her to eventually study engineering.

Blossom is also part of a team that recently reached the semi-finales of the international Wege Prize, for innovation and the circular economy. Read the full story [here](#).

Elizabeth Georgeson Fellowship launched to boost female engineering talent

The School of Engineering has created the Elizabeth Georgeson Fellowship – named after Scotland's first female engineering graduate – to encourage talented postdoctoral researchers from underrepresented groups to pursue careers in engineering academia.

Several Fellowship posts will be offered annually to postdoctoral candidates who identify as female. The initiative, which launches on International Women in Engineering Day 2022 (Thursday 23 June), hopes to boost representation among those who are traditionally less likely to pursue engineering research careers, and may not otherwise apply independently to five-year fellowships. Find out more [here](#).



Introducing our new Director of Industry Engagement Filippo Menolascina



Dr Filippo Menolascina

I am delighted to introduce myself to you. I am currently a Reader in the School of Engineering. I joined the University 7 years ago when I moved back to Europe after spending 4 years as a researcher at MIT. While in the States, I also began my career in start-ups, first at Chief Scientific Officer of Oliba, then as advisor for Venture Capital firms in the deep tech space and, more recently, as founder, co-founder and Board Director of a number of new ventures. I see translation of Academic knowledge into commercially viable enterprises as an essential component of our mission as engineering academics. In my tenure as Director of Industry Engagement, my goal is to foster an empowering environment within our School to promote Academic and Industry collaboration. I hope to also encourage student engagement with Industry. Placements offer a unique opportunity for Industry and Universities to meet and I look forward to seeing these collaborations flourish during my time in this role.

School of Engineering Careers Consultant, Matt Vickers shortlisted for the AGCAS Significant contribution award

AGCAS Awards for Excellence encourage, reward and share good practice amongst HE careers and employability practitioners, and their partner organisations across the full range of HE careers and employability work

We were delighted to see that Matt Vickers, our Careers Consultant, was shortlisted for the AGCAS Significant Contribution Award.

Matt works for the University's Careers Service, supporting students across the schools of Engineering and Mathematics with their career development and ambitions. He was shortlisted after being recognised for exceptional contributions in his work.



Matt Vickers, Careers Consultant for Engineering and Mathematics

Teaching Award Nominations

In addition to Matt's shortlisting for the AGCAS significant contribution award, Matt, Elsie and Katherine all received nominations from our current students in this year's Edinburgh University Students' Association teaching awards. While we are all really pleased that students appreciate what we do, we couldn't provide that level of support without our industrial partners providing insight into sectors, offering placements and delivering guest lectures. Thank you to you all.



Edinburgh
University
Students'
Association



TEACHING
AWARDS

22

NOMINEE



Careers Service Update

We are pleased to announce that we are now accepting bookings for our Careers in Engineering Fair and Discover Careers Event.

We are excited to welcome you back onto campus!

Careers in Engineering Fair

The Careers in Engineering Fair is a chance to meet motivated students from our world class School of Engineering, to raise your profile and promote your graduate, placement, and internship roles.

- **Date** – Wednesday 2nd November 2022 12.30pm-4pm
- **Location** – Sanderson building, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JG
- **Cost** – £200+ VAT

[Find out more and book your place via our website](#)

What else can I do apart from this event?

Careers in Engineering Fair is for Engineering students looking to use their Engineering degree. Our Discover Careers flagship event in September is aimed at students from all degree disciplines - including Engineering. So if you are recruiting from multiple disciplines then Discover Careers may be the best event for you. You can of course attend both!

[Find out more about Discover Careers here](#)

You may be able to get involved in other campaigns which shine a light on particular topics and sectors that are of interest to a wide range of our students and graduates. Our highest volume campaigns that may be of interest to you are Careers in Sustainability in November and Careers in Tech & Data in February. Get added to the mailing list to hear more about these by completing our Expression of Interest Form:

[Expression of Interest Form](#)

Data Protection

The School of Engineering (the School) is committed to protecting your privacy and keeping you informed of how your information is used. We will only record your personal details in the manner and for the purposes set out in this privacy notice. Data will be kept secure from unauthorised access, use or disclosure. We will not sell, rent, trade or otherwise knowingly share or provide your personal information to any third party, except insofar as legally obliged to do so or as specified. Read our [Privacy Notice](#) for further information about how we use and store your personal information.

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