

CHOOSE A CAREER IN CONSTRUCTION

More women than ever are choosing a career in construction and the sector offers a variety of STEMM careers.

Electrical Engineer

Electrical engineers are specialists who design, develop and maintain electrical systems for buildings, transport systems and power distribution networks. You'll need a good understanding of engineering science, maths and computer skills. There are several routes to becoming an electrical engineer. You could complete a university or college course, or an apprenticeship.

Architect

Architects are responsible for designing the buildings and spaces where we live. They design new structures and renovate older buildings, providing you with the opportunity to shape your future and the world we live in. You'll need to be analytical in your thinking, be well organised and have good attention to detail. You can train to be an architect at university, through an apprenticeship, or on-the-job training.

Ecologist

Ecologists study the relationship between plants, animals and the environment. They look at how animals and plants inhabit a particular environment, and report on the likely impact of any proposed construction works. Depending on the job in hand, they could spend time working outdoors, at a university, in an office or in a laboratory. There are several routes to becoming an ecologist, including a university course, or an apprenticeship.

There are so many rewards and benefits of working in construction, with plenty of room for career progression and skill development. Choose the subjects you need and build your skills – here are just a few examples of the many jobs available.



Allana Brimacombe



**Senior Quantity Surveyor
Midas Group**



Allana is a Quantity Surveyor – essentially, this job manages the cost of a construction, ensuring that a project does not run over budget.

'I did an Accounting and Finance degree at university but didn't really know what I wanted to do! My father works in the construction industry so I'd always been interested.'

'I love the variety, the different types of projects that you get to work on (for example schools, hospitals, hotels, apartments). I work with different people, in different locations and different build constructions. Being promoted to Senior Quantity Surveyor has been a really proud moment in my career!'

DID YOU KNOW?

The Shard in London was designed by a woman. Roma Agrawal's work earned her the Diamond Award for Engineering Excellence from the Association for Consultancy and Engineering in 2014.





Sophie Hawken



**Graduate Mechanical Engineer
SDS Engineering Consultants**



'My day to day role includes going to sites to do surveys, producing designs for mechanical services and doing all the calculations required for these. Most of my job is at the computer, not your stereotypical engineering role working on the tools. It can be done by anyone!

'We design everything that makes buildings come to life, everything from lights and electric, to heating, ventilation, air conditioning and renewable energies. We have to work closely with architects and structural engineers, working as a team to overcome obstacles along the way.

'It is a challenging and varied role but that's what keeps it interesting.'



Civil Engineer

Civil engineers plan, design and manage large construction projects. This could include bridges, buildings, transport links and other major structures. They use computer modelling software and data from surveys, tests and maps to create project blueprints. These plans advise contractors on the best course of action and help minimise environmental impact and risk. You can study to become a civil engineer at university or college, or undertake an apprenticeship.

Site Manager

Site managers organise work on building sites, making sure it's completed safely, on time and within budget. As a site manager, you'll liaise with architects, surveyors and builders to ensure a project is on track and there are enough staff, machinery and materials to get the job done. There are several routes to becoming a site manager. You could do a university course, an apprenticeship, or apply directly to an employer.



Sophie Ball



**Graduate Design Manager
Kier Regional Building**



After studying for an M.Sc in Sustainable Development, Sophie was offered the position of Graduate Design Manager at national construction company, Kier. She works within the Design and Build Team and supports, manages and collaborates with the design team during the pre-construction phase of a project. She says that every single day is different and that a graduate programme is brilliant for offering a valuable experience whilst you develop your skills 'on the job'.



There are more than 180 job roles in construction - explore the variety of careers at www.buildinggreaterexeter.co.uk

Here are some resources to help you explore the opportunities which are available to you in more detail.

www.goconstruct.org

www.women-into-construction.org

And if you do decide to work in the sector, there's even a dedicated local group, South West Women in Construction www.swwic.co.uk



www.buildinggreaterexeter.co.uk