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# Rebecca

## Electrical Engineering Apprentice

**What I Do:** I'm currently an Electrical Engineering Apprentice, gaining valuable experience through 6-month placements across various departments. In addition to hands-on work, I attend college one day a week, working towards a degree in 'Electronic and Computer Engineering.' My role is dynamic, and no two days are the same.

**A Typical Day:** My day can vary between office tasks and practical work on the plant. I've been involved in soldering, programming, CAD modelling, and electrical cubicle maintenance. I also spend time shadowing engineers, helping solve problems both on-site and in the office.

**Why I Like Working in Fusion Energy:** Although I'm not directly involved in the scientific side of fusion energy, it's exciting to know that my engineering work contributes to such a groundbreaking field. Everyone is eager to share their knowledge and explain complex concepts, which makes it a great learning environment.

**What I Enjoy About My Job:** The variety in my daily tasks keeps things interesting. One moment I'm in the office, and the next I'm troubleshooting or assisting with maintenance on the plant – it's always something new!

**My School Experience:** I enjoyed school and studied maths, physics, and economics for A-levels, which sparked my interest in numbers and problem-solving. I wasn't aware of higher-level apprenticeships initially, but after some research and support from teachers, I'm glad I pursued this route.

**Traits for Success:** To do well in this role, being practical, organised, and patient is essential. Fusion energy projects are large-scale, and progress can sometimes be slow. You need to be willing to learn and adapt.

**Advice for Aspiring Fusion Engineers:** My advice is simple: go for it! Fusion is a fast-evolving industry with lots of exciting opportunities. The work is fascinating, and there are many knowledgeable people to help guide you along the way. Focus on your studies, enjoy the journey, and have fun while you learn.

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# Henry

## Graduate Safety Case Engineer

**What I Do:** I'm a Graduate Safety Case Engineer at UKAEA, a role I didn't fully understand when I first started! I write safety cases to assess and control risks to people, property, and the environment. These cases are essentially detailed risk assessments that help identify potential hazards and put measures in place to reduce those risks.

**A Typical Day:** Each day brings something new. I spend time researching and writing safety cases, drafting documentation, and checking emails or scheduling meetings. The work is varied, which keeps it interesting!

**Why I Like Working in Fusion Energy:** Working in fusion energy feels prestigious, and it's rewarding to know that I'm contributing to such an important field. Whenever I mention I work in fusion, people are always impressed, which gives me a real sense of pride.

**What I Enjoy About My Job:** The best part of my job is my team. Everyone is supportive and genuinely caring, creating a positive and collaborative atmosphere where I feel valued and encouraged to grow.

**My School Experience:** At school, I had a great group of friends but wasn't as focused or motivated as I should have been, so while my grades were decent, I know I could have done better. After earning a degree in Chemistry and Philosophy, I pursued a master's degree in Advanced Chemical Engineering after moving to the UK.

**Traits for Success:** To succeed in my role, enthusiasm, genuineness, and a strong sense of safety are essential. It's about showing motivation and being truly invested in contributing to the sector.

**Advice for Aspiring Fusion Engineers:** My advice is simple: don't join for the money! If you want to be in a field at the forefront of cutting-edge technology, where you're supported in your goals and enjoy a good work-life balance, then invest time in your application, apply, and hope for the best!

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# Norik

## Graduate Project manager

**What I Do:** As a Project Manager, I act as the link between all the different people working on a given project, ensuring everything is progressing smoothly. My job involves balancing the need to keep projects on time and on budget while addressing the concerns and needs of the team members driving the project forward.

**A Typical Day:** Each day begins with checking my email and Teams messages, followed by reviewing my weekly schedule. I typically have one or two meetings in the morning, with larger ones in the afternoon. The “real work” happens in between meetings, where I focus on tasks like updating Excel spreadsheets, writing project reports, and handling various admin duties.

**Why I Like Working in Fusion Energy:** I’m passionate about working in such a cutting-edge field. The work we’re doing is truly groundbreaking, and it feels incredible to contribute to what could be the next industrial revolution. Though the day-to-day tasks can be routine, the reminder that thousands of people at UKAEA are driving world-changing technology keeps me motivated.

**My School Experience:** I didn’t initially gravitate toward STEM subjects. Instead, I chose History, Politics, and Philosophy & Ethics at A-Level, and later earned a BA in Politics, Philosophy, and Law. It’s interesting to see how the skills I gained from those subjects now complement my role in project management.

**Traits for Success:** Success in this role relies on strong people management. While some may think you need to be an extrovert to thrive, it’s more important to be organised, communicative, and capable of inspiring order within the team. These skills help ensure that even when a project veers off course, it can be easily brought back on track.

**Advice for Aspiring Fusion Engineers:** My advice is simple: go for it! The key is to show that you are willing and able to learn, rather than trying to prove you know it all. I applied on a whim and was given the chance to prove my potential, which was an amazing opportunity.

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# Dominic

## Integrated Design Unit Head

**What I Do:** I lead a multidisciplinary team that integrates Systems Engineering, Configuration Management, and Design Engineering. We deliver the people, processes, and technologies that address the engineering needs of the organisation. Our team plays a key role in introducing new digital technologies that will enable world leading science and engineering for decades to come.

**A Typical Day:** Every day is different, but the common thread is balancing short-term problem-solving with long-term strategic planning. My day often includes quick problem-solving and long-term planning, along with regular communication with my team to stay on top of their day-to-day challenges. I make it a priority to ensure they are supported in every aspect of their work.

**Why I Like Working in Fusion Energy:** Fusion energy is a fascinating and impactful field. It's a topic that sparks great conversation outside of work because of its significance in the global push for clean energy. It feels rewarding to be part of something that could be pivotal to addressing the world's energy challenges.

**What I Enjoy About My Job:** Leading a team is a collaborative experience that I cherish. My team is incredibly supportive, which makes even the toughest days easier and the best days even better. We work together to solve complex problems that require all our skills combined.

**My Educational Background:** I've always had a passion for engineering and design technology, and I spent my lunch breaks in the engineering machine shops, not on the sports field. I left school with A-Levels in 2010 and joined the UKAEA apprenticeship scheme straight afterward, where I honed my skills and built a strong foundation in the field.

**Traits for Success:** To succeed in my role, you need to be collaborative, open-minded, and resilient. Being able to work well with people from diverse backgrounds and having a broad knowledge of various topics are essential skills.

**Advice for Aspiring Fusion Energy Professionals:** My advice is to adopt a long-term mindset and focus on making consistent, bite-sized contributions. The journey to putting fusion energy onto the grid is a marathon, not a sprint, but every step along the way brings meaningful achievements and exciting opportunities.

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# Donna

## Principal Mechanical Engineer & Team Leader

**What I Do:** I lead a team of engineers focused on designing systems for the remote handling of radioactive components. I collaborate with industry partners to develop innovative technological solutions for problems that have never been encountered before. As a Team Leader, I line manage engineers at different stages of their careers and support their professional development.

**A Typical Day:** My days vary depending on the task at hand. Some days are filled with Teams calls, meetings, and reviews, while others are spent working from home reviewing drawings and reports. I also spend time on-site coordinating work or visiting suppliers. The one constant in my day is connecting with my team to ensure they have the support they need.

**Why I Like Working in Fusion Energy:** Working in fusion energy is incredibly rewarding because of the potential impact my role has in making fusion a reality. The work is always stimulating, with new challenges emerging regularly. The opportunity to collaborate with brilliant people from various fields makes it even more fulfilling.

**What I Enjoy About My Job:** I enjoy the diverse interactions with people from different backgrounds, disciplines, and professions. The variety of conversations and perspectives I encounter keeps the job dynamic and engaging.

**My Educational Background:** I loved school, particularly physics, biology, and chemistry. I went on to earn a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering and have pursued further qualifications throughout my career, including becoming a Certified Machinery Safety Expert and completing leadership and management programmes.

**If I wasn't in Fusion Energy:** If I wasn't working in fusion energy, I'd be taste-testing in a chocolate factory!

**Advice for Aspiring Fusion Engineers:** Fusion energy is challenging, and if you enjoy solving problems—many of which no one even knows exist yet—then this field is for you. It's a unique and exciting industry where every day brings new opportunities to make a real difference.

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