

Who are you?

Kemi Akinola

What do you do?

Graduate Process Engineer, United Utilities.

What does your job involve?

My current role is concerned with providing process engineering input into several AMP6 wastewater projects. It typically involves analysing data, writing reports, carrying out several calculations to inform the design of Wastewater Treatment Works and liaising with different Business areas such as Engineering (including Hydraulic, Civil and Mechanical disciplines), Asset Management and Operations. In addition to working in the office, the job involves undertaking site visits.

How did you get there?

In the 2nd year of undergraduate studies, I did the Applied Environmental Geoscience module, which I thoroughly enjoyed. This then led me to undertake a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering, during which we were taught about water and wastewater treatment. During my Master's (which was also at Imperial College), I learnt about United Utilities at the Engineering Careers Fair and applied for a place on its Graduate Engineering Scheme. The recruitment process was in four stages: cover letter & CV submission, online psychometric tests, telephone interview and assessment centre. Whilst on the Scheme, I have undertaken several rotations across the Business including Geo-environmental Engineering, Transformation, Operational Engineering and Process Engineering.

How do you use your skills in geology and geophysics?

In my job, I use different skills that were honed during my undergraduate degree. These include technical skills e.g. those gained from maths and geochemistry modules, as well as 'softer' skills such as report writing, presenting, and teamwork.

What do you love about geology/geophysics?

I particularly enjoyed the maths and geochemistry modules, learning about how natural phenomena e.g. earthquakes and tsunamis occur, and understanding the principles of environmental impact assessment.

Your best and worst moments?

My best work moments include working with different teams, because it gives me the opportunity to meet different people. This has also helped to understand the 'big picture' and how the whole business fits together. Furthermore, I have enjoyed visiting several Water and Wastewater Treatment Works, as this has provided a lot of hands-on learning.

Worst moments – I can't actually think of any! However, there are times where routine tasks such as collating and analysing data can get repetitive. Repetition can sometimes be expected in working life, so it is definitely important to maximise each moment and do your best!

