

# Women in Engineering at the Open University

## Motivations and aspirations

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### Background

There have been many initiatives over the past 30 years to increase the number of girls choosing to study engineering at university. Despite these initiatives the numbers of professional female engineers has remained low at around 9%.

Women account for ~ 10% of undergraduate engineering students at the OU. We have investigated their backgrounds, motivations and aspirations through a recent survey, which has revealed some interesting differences between male and female students.

### Work experience

#### Women

71% work full-time, 10% part-time  
19% work in engineering, 23% in STEM  
44% have never worked in engineering but want to.

#### Men

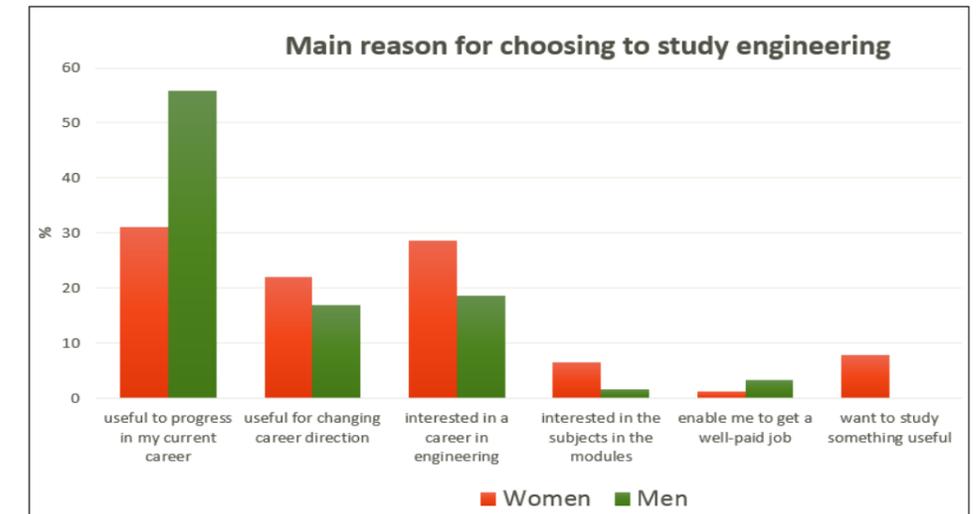
84% work full-time, 4% part-time  
58% work in engineering, 12% in STEM  
17% have never worked in engineering but want to.



Can you guess which set of disciplines most interest women and which most interest men?  
The relative sizes of the words represent the popularity of the discipline.



### Reasons for studying engineering



### Attitudes to study

