

In her own words: Hannah Swinbourne

In celebration of #IWD2023, we check in with some incredible women at the NCC who share candid insights into their respective roles; what drives them to login every morning; and the advice they would give their 16-year-old selves.

Meet Hannah Swinbourne, Research Engineer

Joining the NCC

My background is mechanical engineering in my homeland of Birmingham. An alumni suggested the NCC and I was drawn in by the range of industries and projects they worked on. I joined for my placement year, and enjoyed it so much I came back as a graduate!

It was my love of space and Formula 1 that pulled me into this field. When I was younger, my teacher introduced me to engineering as a way to use my love of physics and problem solving. In fact, I first used composites in my Formula Student team and really enjoyed learning how to design and manufacture with them.

It was my placement work on composites sustainability that made me appreciate how I could directly help solve big sustainability problems in end of life, net zero transport, and energy.

What motivates my login

- Every day is different – especially as a graduate! We work with many customers on different products and challenges. My work ranges from recycling to cryogenic hydrogen tanks. I love working with customers and figuring out where we can help.
- I feel like I make a difference. I can bring my passion for sustainability to my role and make sure we're considering it in our projects and passing it on to customers.
- The people. I am lucky to work with some extremely supportive and talented people here at the NCC. I am also very grateful for my mentors that have helped me with my personal and career development.

Advice to my 16-year-old self

“ It's easy to feel like the person in the room with the least amount of knowledge, but everyone has different talents and backgrounds. You have a valuable perspective to add, so put your ideas out there!
Also, most situations are improved with a cup of tea. ”

