

NI Maths Role Models

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Grid Control Officer



What does your job entail?

My role involves using a range of different monitors and systems to make sure our gas network operates properly. As well as monitoring I also help create engineering designs which map out how we build new gas network to help connect new homes as they are built.

How did you get into this line of work?

I never knew what a grid controller was until I started in Phoenix Natural Gas, but what's great about a company like Phoenix is that there is lots of opportunity to learn and gain experience that helps you move into different roles.

Outline your career to date?

I started working at Phoenix in 2016 in the Customer Services team, helping customers with queries and connections. After two years I moved into the team that plans new connections to the gas network and then in 2020 the role in Grid Control became available and I knew it was an area I was interested in finding out more about.

How do you use maths in your role today?

I use maths in lots of different ways in my job, from finding averages, to measuring lengths and diameters though to counting up the costs for different works that we have to undertake. I'm much more confident with maths now and glad I paid attention in school, even when I didn't enjoy it!

Did you enjoy maths in school?

I have to admit I really didn't enjoy maths in school and never thought I'd end up in a job that uses maths so much! In my job I use maths to identify things like the average gas pressures in our pipeline every day and in measuring pipe lengths and diameters, so it's a big part of my job – but what makes it different is that I understand what maths helps me to do and when you understand how maths make your job easier, it's much more enjoyable.