

### Kiera Colquhoun Technical Safety Engineer

# Hi there! I am Kiera Colquhoun – a technical safety engineer



#### Where do I work?

I work at an engineering consultancy in the energy sector, working as part of a large team to design oil and gas, and renewable energy developments.

### What did I like doing when I was at school?

My favourite subjects at school were maths, science and history.

### What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love playing team sports, my favourites are football and netball. I love hanging out with my friends. I also like to watch quiz shows on TV with my family.

#### What do I do as a technical safety engineer?

I look at the design of a facility (e.g. an oil rig) and make sure that it is very unlikely that something will go wrong. I want to prevent leaks, fires and explosions! I also make sure that if anything did go wrong, we have designed and put in place the best possible systems to protect people from harm.



#### How does what I do make the world a better place?

I help to make sure that people feel safe at work and make it home safely everyday. I also make sure it is safe for people who live and work near to a facility.

### What I like about my job

The best thing about my work is that I get to use my engineering knowledge to make a real difference to people's lives. I like that I get to interact with different types of engineers on the projects I work on.



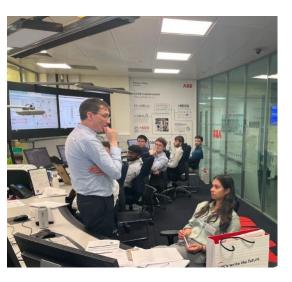
#### **Challenges I have faced**

When I was at school and university I did a lot of sports, so I had to work to balance my time and make sure I was succeeding both in my education and my sports.

#### If you want to be a technical safety engineer, you need:

- to be good at teamwork, so you can get the best design possible
- \* to be good at talking to other people, because sometimes you will have difficult conversations with other engineers if you think their design is not safe enough
  - to pay attention to detail, to make sure nothing gets missed
  - to always be willing to learn, the more we learn about why and how things go wrong the better we can be at preventing them





### **Discussion time**

 Would you like to be a Technical Safety Engineer like Kiera Colquhoun?
Why? Why not?



- What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a Technical Safety Engineer?
- What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



Kiera Colquhoun is a STEM ambassador. Click <u>here</u> to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

### Free supporting resources for engineering

Why & How magazine – See issue 17 – ideas for engineering learning in the classroom

Science at Work – See 'Meet two engineers'

Science & STEM Clubs – see 'Engineering Our World'

**Did you know?** articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides can be used a classroom presentations. They explain what scientists have done and suggest practical activities for children. Children interested in marine science might also be interested in these projects. See:

- Bamboo could be used to make cricket bats
- Weird, wiggly, crawling wheels roam Mars

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