



Charlotte's interest in engineering started when she did work experience through school with Switchgear & Instrumentation Ltd.

After leaving school, she did an apprenticeship at Bradford College in mechanical engineering completing an NVQ 2 in Performing Engineering Operations during her first year. She continued her apprenticeship at Switchgear & Instrumentation with day release to study an ONC in Mechanical Manufacturing.

"I loved the course at Bradford College. I was really nervous when I started and there was only one other girl on my course. But the tutors were great and very supportive.

"The second year was very challenging. I took on extra electrical units and also completed courses in welding and AutoCAD, a drawing package which I now use in my current role.

"The best part of my job is the design and development aspect. Every day is different and I am always learning new things. I do a lot of prototyping and testing which involves finding out what went wrong and putting it right. I have also spent time working at our head office in Houston, on an Enhanced Product Project.

"Switchgear & Instrumentation have been very supportive of me and are keen to engage women on their apprenticeship training programme every year.

"I am now studying with the Open University for a Bachelor of Engineering degree. On completion of this, I plan to do a Masters degree and eventually gain Chartered Accreditation with the Institute of Engineering and Technology".

## Charlotte Hill TMIET

Charlotte completed an Apprenticeship in Mechanical Engineering with Bradford College in 2006. She now works as a Design and Development Technician for Switchgear & Instrumentation Ltd, part of the Powell Group of Houston, Texas.

**"My advice to other women who are interested in this type of career is to stick with it and don't let anyone put you off. There are people who don't think that women should be in engineering but if it is what you want to do keep going!"**

