

In her own words: Jess Harrison

From what drives them to login every morning to advice they would give their 16-year-old selves, here are candid insights from some of the incredible women at the National Composites Centre (NCC) who help us build towards a brighter future.

Meet Jess Harrison,
Associate Research Engineer
Member, Women's Led Network

Joining the NCC

I was looking for research-based and materials-based graduate roles whilst at university, and liked the idea of rotating around multiple parts of the business as part of the NCC's graduate scheme. The option to be based in both technical and project management roles was a key reason I joined.

I have always enjoyed subjects at school related to materials in some way, including design, technology, chemistry and physics. So, I kept engaging with opportunities to learn more about this subject area outside of school.

A particular experience which stands out, and definitely solidified my interest in materials, was when I attended a lecture aimed at sixth form/college students. A PhD student was talking about applying fullerenes to drug delivery within the body – it blew my mind. His enthusiasm for his research was contagious and encouraged me to apply for a materials engineering course at university, ultimately leading me to where I am today.



What motivates my login

- The variety of work and projects. There's always something new and interesting to get involved with.
- I'm constantly learning, be it about a new material, process or application.
- The NCC seems to attract genuinely good people, who are always happy to help and support career mentoring.

Allyship to me

The sense of community that comes from a group of like-minded people coming together to collaborate, challenge and support each other is why I joined an affinity network. It's the perfect environment to encourage growth, particularly during my early career as I seek inspiring role models. Allyship is being empathic towards others: being open minded, seeking to learn and educate myself so that I may better support different people in a way they would like to be.

Advice to my 16-year-old self

“ It's okay to not be certain of a career 'end goal' – follow your gut and keep doing whatever it is that you enjoy. ”

Making safety seen

Embedding safety is taking responsibility of yourself, others and the environment you're in. Leading by example can be an effective way to make safety seen.