

# Women in Engineering at DSE

## Wafa Abdulla – Embedded Software Engineer



### What do you enjoy about your current role and working at DSE?

The opportunity to be involved in the full product life cycle, this includes requirement capture, software development and engineering testing projects. I am really happy to see the **DSE Genset**® application that I have developed released into the market place after all of the quality checks were passed.'

### What are the next steps in your career?

My career goal as an Embedded Software Engineer is to continuously enhance my skills in firmware development and work on innovative projects that push the boundaries of technology.

### What advice would you give to women and girls pursuing a career in engineering?

To embrace their passion, stay curious and build a strong technical foundation. Also to develop problem-solving skills and actively participate in engineering communities to learn, grow and excel within the field.

### How did you develop an interest in engineering?

My journey into engineering was an exciting one. My father was working in the electrical department for a company based in the UAE, so he was the electrician in my family, and I often helped him out which started my interest in electronics.

I've had a strong passion for mathematics and problem solving since I was young. After school I attended university to complete a bachelor's degree in electronics and communications. In my third year I carried out a placement at Tata Consultancy Services as an Assistant System Engineer. I decided that an embedded microcontroller role was of most interest to me. In my final year I was offered a 1 year internship at BSNL to develop my knowledge further.

Following on from my university degree I joined Tata Consultancy Services as an Assistant System Engineer. After 2 years I was promoted to a Systems Engineer role but I was always looking for an Embedded Software Development role.

In 2019, I resigned from TCS and pursued a Masters in Embedded Systems from the National Institute of Technology in Jaipur with a scholarship. From there I was offered an internship from Xilinx as an Embedded Engineer. During my first year I was working with FPGA developers and worked on Yocto bootloader build tools and Linux device driver verification.

Once I graduated from NIT and finished my internship at Xilinx, I moved to the UK, and received a job offer from Deep Sea Electronics Ltd as an Embedded Software Engineer. It was really a dream come true moment for me! Working at DSE I have the opportunity to work on DSE hardware, communication protocols and to develop **DSE Genset**® product firmware.'



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## Rebecca Willis – Technical Support Engineer



### How did you develop an interest in engineering?

I grew up watching my Dad tinker with classic cars on the drive and servicing his own cars, although I think the latter was more to do with being a tight-fisted Yorkshireman, than it being his hobby. This sparked my interest (pun intended).

Through school I enjoyed the sciences and mathematics, and I was always taught to play to my strengths. In this case that ended up being maths and physics. I decided to pursue this at university, studying and completing a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

### What do you enjoy about your current role and working at DSE?

The Learning opportunities; with my background being mechanical engineering it has been a steep learning curve. Which, with the ever-changing industry, continues to present new challenges and learning opportunities, allowing me to grow as an engineer.

Additionally having the opportunity to work with customers all over the world, travelling to trade shows and other offices.

### What are the next steps in your career?

Continue to expand my knowledge in different areas of engineering, combining knowledge, to be able to solve and design around pending and future global issues. I'd like to have the skills to both work on and manage projects that have impact.

### What advice would you give to women and girls pursuing a career in engineering?

Don't allow yourself to be talked over or dismissed, your ideas and thoughts deserve to be heard as much as anybody's. Although it's very easy to feel like an imposter sometimes, remember how hard you've worked to get where you are, and keep reminding yourself of how far you've come.





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## Manisha Sunkireddy - Embedded Engineer



### How did you develop an interest in engineering?

Born in India, I always aimed to give back to my country from a young age. Before becoming an engineer my dream was to become an IAS Officer. My father who was a public servant explained to me the duty of being both an Indian citizen and a Police Officer. When I was a people leader at school, my time was spent filing requests, organising activities and representing the school in every other aspect required. This position of responsibility triggered my leadership skills, strong motivational drive, and an urge to connect to people and solve their problems.

In 2013 I completed my MPC Major in IIT College and soon realised I was interested in solving real world problems. Engineering provides solutions to bottleneck problems and it can also be a part of service, as this area is supporting some of the difficulties that society faces.

In 2015, I began studying my Bachelor's Degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering (Hons) at Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education. Dr. T Theivasanthi, a researcher, influenced my interests in engineering with her innovations in Nano Technology. Dr. Radeep Krishna. R, encouraged me to apply for an international internship after being rejected at IIT. In the final year of my bachelor study in 2019, I was offered an opportunity at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore as a Research Assistant in the Hardware and Embedded Engineering Laboratory.

I was awarded with a gold medal in the department of Electronics and Communication Engineering as an outcome of my degree. After finishing my Bachelors (Hons) I looked to study further and applied for a scholarship programme to pursue my Masters Degree.

Due to the pandemic my study was postponed. Finally I got to apply for MSc in Advanced Electrical and Electronics Engineering at the University of Leicester. On completion of my Master's Degree in 2023 I began applying for jobs and came across Deep Sea Electronics Ltd through a careers fair.

### What do you enjoy about your current role and working at DSE?

I enjoy learning industrial methods of product development, new software, equipment handling and being work friendly. Tackling abrupt problems during product development has helped me to engage my brain into problem solving. I strongly feel that this is where an engineer's role has the most importance. The satisfaction when fixing even a small bug or the disappointments during the product journey keep me grounded. There is always a lesson to be learned. As a Graduate engineer I feel that DSE is a very good platform to develop something new with continuous learning.

### What are the next steps in your career?

To build a strong engineering career in the field of Embedded Systems and to discover solutions to existing problems. I always like to keep a positive attitude in the work place whilst remaining persistent and kind. I am also looking to complete a PhD in music specifically Veena, a South Indian musical instrument to keep my enthusiasm and learning abilities alive.

### What advice would you give to women and girls pursuing a career in engineering?

Engineering is a wide area of opportunities for women and girls. If you are willing to accept a challenge, are not afraid of failure and are capable of seeing a bright world with imagination and inspiration then you are perfectly equipped to join this great study. One lesson I have learnt over the years is not to self-degrade as it curbs growth, confidence and opportunity. All we have to do is try and assess what is more relatable to our skill set so that it feels like a hobby.



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