

Meet the Academic – Rohin Titmarsh

Introduction

My name is Rohin Titmarsh. I look after our battery module build lab at the University of Warwick. So we use the lab to build different types of battery modules, test out different manufacturing operations and I use automation when building batteries to make sure that we can build them faster, safer and reliably.

When you were younger, did you enjoy science at school?

Yeah, I really enjoyed physics. Chemistry was difficult, but it was really interesting. And I did maths and further maths at A level as well, again both quite difficult. I did not come out with the best grades at A level, but I really got into engineering at university. Really took some of that fundamental learning and foundation of the sciences and maths and applied it into something that I could understand and really enjoyed.

What did you want to be when you grew up, did you want to be a scientist?

No, I originally wanted to be an archaeologist. Then I wanted to be a cameraman and then once I got into Formula One. Then I really thought yeah, actually engineering is probably what I want to go and do. I don't know if any of that stemmed from all the Lego that I used to play with as a kid. I really loved being able to put things together, figure out how different parts go together to make different things.

Did you have any role models who inspired you to become a scientist?

Not at school. We didn't really have an idea of many people in engineering and sciences apart from our school teachers. But as I really got into Formula One, a lot of the drivers like Lewis Hamilton were really driving forces behind why I wanted to go into engineering. And once I did my work experience in year 10 and learning and talking to engineers at university. Those people really inspired me to go and do some of the things that I've done and get involved in some of the activities that I've done.

How has the reality of your job measured up to your expectations?

In some ways it's been totally different to what I thought it would ever be, but all in good ways. I really enjoyed some of the problem solving that I've been able to do in my jobs. I think that's one of the great things about engineering. There's always different things coming up always keeps you on your toes. There's always something interesting coming around the corner.

What advice would you give for someone aspiring to go into a STEM career?

I think my biggest advice would be to get a real good understanding of lots of different career paths like me. You may think that you just want to go into Formula One, you might want to make really fast cars, really exciting cars, but there's so many different routes and jobs out there that actually something else might interest you. And getting a real appreciation of all the different things that engineers have to deal with and all the different things that they have to do is really, really important, before deciding on a career path.

What would be your dream research project, if you had unlimited funds?

If I had all the money in the world, I'd love to be able to build a battery all with robots with no humans involved and being able to make the amount of batteries that we need at the scales that we need. It's definitely going to need automation in lots of different forms. So if I had unlimited funds I would try and make a small pilot line using all automation.