

# Zainab Adigun

## BTEC First Certificate in Engineering



### Progression pathway



BTEC First Certificate in Engineering at school



Civil Engineering at university, followed by a Master's in Structural Engineering



Senior Structural Engineer at Pell Frischmann and AFBE-UK Schools Programme Lead

### The journey of a trailblazing engineer: Zainab Adigun's BTEC story.

#### From a BTEC First in Engineering to a Senior Structural Engineer role.

*In Year 9 at school, Zainab Adigun explored her interest in engineering. Opting to study for a BTEC First Certificate in Engineering, she found herself thriving in the practical, hands-on environment.*

*The BTEC First Certificate not only deepened Zainab's understanding of engineering but also helped her develop essential skills like communication and practical problem-solving from an early age. It was here that her passion for engineering took root.*

### 1

#### Soft skills and practical learning

Zainab believes her BTEC really pushed her career trajectory towards engineering, allowing her to realise how broad a field Engineering is. "Once on the course, I could really see myself pursuing Engineering as a career", she says. "I started to understand what my interests were specifically, so it was a really invaluable experience", Zainab adds.

Zainab believes the practical nature of BTEC courses prepares students effectively for the workplace: "BTEC is more than just the technical knowledge you gain. It helps learners develop 'soft' skills, such as effective communication, which can really set you apart as a candidate nowadays".

After completing her BTEC, Zainab went on to study Civil Engineering at university, later specialising with a Master's in Structural Engineering.



*The course was awesome, and it really gave me a different view of what engineering was. I was always learning, and doing it at the same time.*



### 2

#### Making a difference

Today, Zainab is a Senior Structural Engineer at multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy Pell Frischmann.

Her commitment to diversity in engineering led her to work with the Association for Black and Minority Ethnic Engineers (AFBE), leading interactive school programmes to inspire young people.

Zainab's dedication to her field and her work with the AFBE have garnered her recognition. She was named as one of 100 Highly Commended Finalists in the Top 50 Women in Engineering (WE50) 2022 Awards and won the Excellence in Outreach award at the 2022 CN & NCE Inspiring Women in Construction and Engineering Awards.

### 3

#### Looking ahead

Zainab's story demonstrates the powerful role BTEC qualifications can play in shaping careers and lives. She credits her BTEC experience with setting her on her path to a successful career in engineering.

"My BTEC effectively set me on my path to a career in engineering. It helped me develop skills that I still use daily at work", Zainab reflects.

Through her work and outreach, she continues to inspire the next generation of engineers, exemplifying Pearson's mission to add life to a lifetime of learning.