CASE STUDY
GRADUATE

Melanie Finch
Graduate Member

What inspired you to want to become a building services engineer and pursue a career in engineering?

I originally decided to pursue engineering as a career path following a seminar night at my high school, where hearing the engineer talk about their work made me realise I could apply my technical interests in a practical and tangible way.

I ended up in the building services industry by luck – I gained my first internship at Norman Disney & Young just over two years ago and enjoyed it so much that I decided to stay. What inspires me about being in the industry is the ability to walk around cities and understand the level of design and collaboration between many groups to make them happen.

I’m also very motivated by the fact that our work directly affects such large numbers of people, and therefore when we do our job well, we can improve the experience of so many.

What qualification path did you choose and why?

I chose to undertake a double bachelor’s degree at the University of New South Wales (Mechanical Engineering/Commerce). This degree combination has given me a well-rounded background, providing both technical skills and commercial understanding.

What do you consider to be the main benefits of Graduate membership? And why?

I see the huge range of knowledge resources and social opportunities as the main benefits of CIBSE Graduate membership. The technical guides offered in CIBSE’s knowledge portal are widely respected within the industry as best-practice references, so having these on hand is especially brilliant in this time where I am continually taking on new information.
Social and technical events offered throughout the year also provide a valuable opportunity to build relationships in the industry and help foster a spirit of collaboration (in what can be a competitive landscape!).

**Why are you looking to become IEng/CEng?**

Beyond access to increased opportunities and cultivating more client confidence, becoming registered will give me a clear path to becoming skilled, and then keeps me accountable and supports me in continual learning and improvement.

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**What is your greatest professional accomplishment to date and what do you hope to achieve in the future?**

The achievement I am most proud of in my short time as a graduate engineer is receiving the CIBSE ANZ Graduate of the Year award. Another highlight has been the opportunity to lead a number of (appropriately sized) projects and develop relationships with our clients based on this work.