



Tideway

RECONNECTING LONDON WITH THE RIVER THAMES DELIVERING A LASTING LEGACY

INVESTING IN APPRENTICES

Fiona Keenaghan is a great example of the opportunity the Tideway project can offer to young people through its apprenticeship programme.

Fiona, 22, from Peckham, knew that a university route was not the right one for her—instead she started a two-year Tideway apprenticeship.

“It’s been great,” she says. “The best thing about doing an apprenticeship is getting paid while you train. When I’m a fully qualified engineer, I’ll have seven years’ experience behind me already, but no debt because my company is paying for all my education.”

There is plenty to encourage young people like Fiona into the industry: research shows that engineering graduates are the second highest paid of all graduate categories and the average chartered engineer annual salary is more than £60,000.

With the UK predicted to need 182,000 engineers by 2022, and with more engineering jobs than graduates to fill them, the government has acknowledged the importance of creating more apprenticeships. The Tideway project is playing a vital role in helping to address this skills gap as part its commitment to deliver a legacy for London.

Fiona, who has now completed her apprenticeship in civil engineering, was given opportunities with a number of teams during those two years and is currently working with the East Delivery Team.

“I am now studying part-time to gain a Higher National Certificate in Civil Engineering. During my apprenticeship I rotated around various teams to gain a better understanding of the project and in return this helped me to complete my college work to a high standard. My tasks vary daily, from working on a technical report to working on data relevant to ground investigation work.”

Tideway has committed not only to ensure that one in 50 of the workforce is an apprentice, but that one in four people on the project will live in one of the 14 boroughs located along the tunnel route. We are also committed to an engagement programme with local schools to promote careers linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects in order to inspire the next generation of engineers.



Fiona: “I hope I can continue to encourage other young women to consider careers in engineering.”

Fiona is one of Tideway's STEM ambassadors. She has taken part in numerous STEM events, including visiting her old school to talk to a science class about her apprenticeship, and attending networking sessions to help others find out about construction and engineering.

She says: "I hope I can continue to encourage other young women to consider careers in engineering and construction by being a STEM ambassador and talking about how exciting a career in this industry can be."

Fiona's experience has been a rewarding one – literally. In 2014 she was named the STEMnet Inspirational Apprentice of the Year. The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) offered each winner a trip to Switzerland to visit CERN, one of the most respected centres for scientific research.

When Fiona was presented with the award at a ceremony at the House of Lords, she said: "To even be nominated felt like a massive achievement, so I'm thrilled to have won! Visiting CERN is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I feel really privileged to be able to go and visit such an inspirational place."

Andy Mitchell, Tideway's Chief Executive Officer, said: "Fiona has remained dedicated to spreading the word about engineering and construction to other young people. She is an enthusiastic, excellent STEM role model."



Potential suppliers to the Tideway project get a briefing from Tideway's procurement teams

For more information about Tideway

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