

FIONA MCMMASTER



SELF-EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Fiona has been working in the construction industry for 5 years in a variety of roles. She is a design engineer for electrical and mechanical systems for new builds, and also works as a self-employed facilitator / trainer for plumbing, electrics, general maintenance and other courses at WOMEN'STEC. Throughout her career, Fiona has designed the electrical and mechanical installations for housing associations and new builds and managed these projects onsite until completion and final handover. Onsite Fiona worked on new and old electrical installations, renovations, rewires, fixing boilers and plumbing maintenance.

“Plumbing or electrics may seem simple but the design end alone is vast and offers so many opportunities - it can easily lead to further things. I studied as a microbiologist originally and worked in this area for many years and then came across WOMEN'STEC. Here I got a taste for electrics, plumbing and joinery. The environment was fun and relaxed while the training allowed me to sail through the first two years of my City and Guilds qualification, I hadn't realised so much had been covered in the courses at the time and these have been a great foundation for my career since. I now facilitate at WOMEN'STEC on a part time

basis. I enjoyed it so much I can't get enough!”, says Fiona. Career opportunities leading from plumbing and electrics include new installations, maintenance, upgrading, inspection and testing, research and development, design layouts, engineering, project management, environmental improvement, further education, teaching and many more.

In terms of qualifications, Fiona holds a City and Guilds in Electrics, has almost completed a City and Guilds qualification in plumbing, and is currently finishing an engineering degree at the University of Ulster.

Fiona says, “The advantage of the industry is that you can suit your personal needs. It is a great option to be self-employed and bring home a good wage while fitting the demands of your family particularly if you have children - this is a good opportunity you don't get elsewhere. Training in one area leads to so many other outlets and can take you across the world if you have a mind for travelling.”



CASE STUDY