

**Tess Brown, graduate programme entrant at Williams Advanced Engineering**

*From dreams of being a footballer or a teacher as a child, Tess Brown took a different turn and is now developing a career across several areas at Williams Advanced Engineering*



I arrived at Williams straight out of university. I was attracted to Williams' graduate scheme because it is unique in its opportunity to rotate through a series of business departments. It allows me to learn about the business and which areas might be most of interest to me, while also getting that overall picture to understand the top level objectives, so I can make contributions that really help the business. To me, [Williams Advanced Engineering](#) provides an exciting opportunity to be part of lots of projects, not limited to motorsport.

I'm currently on my fourth six-month rotation. I am working in the [Business Dynamics](#) team now and there is so much variety, so many different things I'm involved in and each day is different.

My favourite project to have worked on so far has got to be the [Singer "Dynamic and Lightweighting Study" or DLS project](#). I spent my first six months working in the programmes team supporting the senior programme manager. It was really interesting to be part of the development process and exciting to see the cars once they were [unveiled at the Goodwood Festival of Speed](#) in the summer of 2018 as well as being [reported in the media](#).

I studied Product Design and Technology at Loughborough University, but when I was younger I went through lots of ideas about what I wanted to do when I grew up. First off I wanted to be a teacher, then a footballer and I also had a time when I wanted to join the police. My Mum is my main role model. I think she's where I got my work ethic from. She's strong and made sure I always felt supported in what I wanted to do. I'd like to pay that forward now. It's crucial that we get more women working in engineering. This will ultimately result in more women in senior roles within the motorsport and wider engineering industry. I think that having more female role models will show the younger generation that there are women in engineering, excelling in senior roles and how diverse the sector really is. Engineering is about problem solving, the more diverse workforce you have, the more experiences and knowledge is bought forward to solve these problems. To achieve that it's important that this sector is seen to be accessible to everyone and the number of women continues to grow.

While I was studying for my A-levels, I worked on the checkout at a supermarket and then, throughout university, I had summer jobs working in various random places doing admin work. This gave me lots of experience of working in different environments and with different people as well as with customers. So, if I could advise my younger self now though I would tell me not to worry about the future too much. I spent a lot of time worrying about what career I was going to have, what job I was going to do. Then I've ended up doing something completely different from what I thought so that worrying wasn't at all necessary! If I was asked about the future I'd certainly learn from my advice now. I want to be successful for sure, but what that entails, I don't know yet. In addition I'd advise people currently studying not to worry about the debt that comes with going to university. Going to university has 100% been worth it for me and I wouldn't be where I am without it.