I am an Associate Mechanical Engineer within WSP’s Sydney office with experience of a variety of projects both in terms of sector and construction stages. My role includes the design and development of sustainable, energy efficient mechanical services, including air conditioning, heating and ventilation systems.

I joined the WSP services team in London in 2010 and gained experience through involvement in a diverse range of WSP’s multidisciplinary projects. I then joined the Sydney team in February 2013, where I have been project and discipline lead on a number of significant projects.

I have a strong technical focus and am an active CIBSE member, sitting on the NSW Chapter and Education Sub-Committee.

When approaching graduation, I took part in a few graduate recruitment days however the locations and type of work just didn’t feel like the right fit for me. It was around this time I had a chance encounter with a MCIBSE Building Services Engineer who opened my eyes to the industry. Shortly after, I applied and was successful at the WSP graduate recruitment process for a position in London.

What inspired you to become a building services engineer and what path did you take to achieve this?

I studied for a Masters in Mechanical Engineering at Southampton University with a view to working in the automotive industry.

“My advice would be to talk to colleagues that have recently gone through the process. I found talking to others gave me confidence and helped break down the barriers to writing the first sentence.”
What is the most enjoyable aspect of your job?

In a word – ‘variety’. I find the most enjoyable part of my job is the fact that every day is different. It is not uncommon to be discussing design solutions with architects, construction issues with contractors and commercial issues with clients all in the same day. Then there is the broad range of projects in terms of sector and work stage. All-in-all, there is no time to get bored.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment to date?

My greatest achievement is working on the successful delivery of projects in three continents. Being part of a global multidisciplinary consultancy has given me opportunities to work all around the world. After 3 years in London, I relocated to Sydney where I have also had opportunities to work on projects in Singapore.

What one piece of advice would you give to someone thinking about becoming a building services engineer?

My advice would be that if they are looking for a career that includes technical aspects, project and people management that they could practice anywhere in the developed world then they should do it.

Why did you become MCIBSE CEng?

It has always been my goal to reach CEng MCIBSE status as this not only reflects my studies but also acknowledges my practical experience and recognition from my peers. The qualification is also internationally recognised and specific to the field of engineering where I work and therefore the most relevant to demonstrate my competency.

How did you find the application process to become MCIBSE and what advice would you give to others considering this grade?

Whilst initially slightly daunting, in the end, I found the process enjoyable. Writing the report enabled time to reflect on my career and what I have achieved. My advice would be to talk to colleagues that have recently gone through the process. I found talking to others gave me confidence and helped break down the barriers to writing the first sentence. Everyone I spoke to was happy to share their experiences and help me on my journey to chartership.

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

I consider the greatest benefit of membership as the access to a wealth of knowledge. I am a member of the NSW CIBSE Chapter, which gives me access to a community passionate about building services and continual professional development. We meet regularly to discuss technical topics, relevant industry events and visit local project sites of interest.

Building services is great because….?

The world wouldn’t work without buildings, and buildings wouldn’t work without building services. With a significant amount of the world’s energy use also being attributed to buildings, it gives us as a collective the opportunity to make a meaningful difference.