

Steven Simplay BEng (Hons) MSc CEng MIET

CASE STUDY

I currently work as a PMST Leader for TATA Technologies, world leader in Automotive, Aerospace and heavy machinery engineering and design, offering products and services to original equipment manufacturer (OEM) engineering sectors. I am considered to be a young professional and competent engineer who has gained Chartered Engineer (CEng) status. I applied to become a Chartered Engineer because it provides a way to demonstrate my high level of competence, engineering credentials, creativity and innovation. In addition, it shows that I am committed to my continued professional development (CPD) as an engineer.

I am proud to have achieved this recognition, as the journey to become a Chartered Engineer and to have the letters CEng after your name is not simple. My own path to CEng began at Coventry University, from which I graduated in 2003 with a 2:1 (Hons) in Aerospace Systems Engineering. As a graduate engineer, I realised that I needed to add more credentials to my professional knowledge in order to be distinctive from others. Therefore, I continued a further learning year at Coventry University studying a Master of Science (MSc) in Engineering Manufacturing Management.

Whilst there I carried out a project at Federal Mogul (UK), where I was able to apply hypothesis to actual practice, saving the company in excess of £110k. For this, I was not only awarded a distinction but also won the school of engineering prize for all round excellence.

I first joined The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) in 2004 and have remained a member ever since. Through the institution I completed an application for CEng, in which I demonstrated suitable experience in each of the competence areas set out in the Engineering Council's professional standard, UK-SPEC. During this process I had support from my professional registration adviser. Following this, I was called to attend an interview in July 2010 and was successful in my application.

After gaining CEng, your career development does not just stop. You still need a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) plan showing how you are developing your knowledge and skills further.

I am currently a STEM ambassador. Since becoming a Chartered Engineer, I have also delivered seminars about engineering to students at Coventry University and local schools. In addition, I have been on a panel at Coventry University for a new launch event of the global leaders programme, having direct involvement with senior directors from JLR and other businesses in the UK.

My advice for potential registrants would be that gaining professional registration is a great achievement and you unquestionably stand out from your peers. The benefits may not be immediately apparent but, in time, you will reap benefits. I have heard other Chartered Engineers say that it is an essential part of their curriculum vitae, providing a distinct advantage over their competitors.

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Registered 2010

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