

## PhD from A to Z

### Meet the Panel



Dr Aneeqa Khan

I'm a research fellow in nuclear fusion at The University of Manchester. I completed my PhD 4 years ago and since then have worked at the ITER Project, Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics and am now back at the University of Manchester.

Emre Yildirim

I am a 3rd year PhD student studying tungsten alloys for Fusion applications on the Fusion CDT, getting to use some pretty cool, sci-fi-esque, bits of kit like linear plasma devices. I studied my undergraduate in Mechanical Engineering here at Manchester and continue to love hanging about the city when not working.

Max Rigby

I'm a 4th year PhD student developing an interesting group of materials called 'MAX phases' (which I sadly did not invent) for use in future nuclear fusion environments, as part of the Fusion CDT (Centre for Doctoral Training). I studied my undergraduate degree in Physics at Leeds, with a year in industry at TWI Ltd. in Cambridge. I'm keen on bouldering, squash, skiing, mountain climbing, sustainable energy, ale and cheese (addicted, in fact).

Dr Cara Mulholland

Having pursued a Civil Engineering (with Enterprise) degree because I loved seeing how science is used to build our everyday lives, I felt a bit stuck as I realised I didn't want to be an actual engineer. Luckily, I had gotten some good experience in the wider world of engineering, sustainability and society so knew there was a path for me there somewhere. Having kept in contact with some great project management academics from my undergraduate I happened upon an opportunity which seemed perfect for me – a PhD in social value of nuclear decommissioning. Real world research that would let me step sideways in my career. Again, luck was on my side, when having finished my PhD a KTP (Knowledge Transfer Partnership) opportunity came up – again industry focused research trying to crack the challenge of social value on land development projects. My jack-of-all trades interests in the civil engineering world has become my strength as an inter-disciplinary researcher.

Dr Laura Leay

When you have a love of science but can't pick just one discipline to focus on how do you decide what to do? I started off studying Natural Sciences, did a post graduate masters relating to manufacturing and then jumped about between the nuclear industry and academia. My PhD was in atomistic modelling of polymers for carbon capture and I now run a research group that looks at how nuclear waste evolves under a radiation field. A varied career relies on transferable skills like time management and communication and these strengths have allowed me make the most of opportunities that have come my way.