

MSc Electrical Power Systems Engineering

Part-time, online



An Interview with...

Victoria Mary Nakalembe

Systems Engineer
Eskom Uganda Ltd



Hydroelectricity is the main source of power in Uganda, a country which currently has a small grid and struggles with regular blackouts.

Victoria Nakalembe is part of the ambitious team working to boost the nation's power capacity by four times, upgrading the existing power plants and building new dams to transform quality of life for the population through access to reliable power.

MAKING A SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTION

A stipulation of Victoria's Equity and Merit Scholarship is that she must use the knowledge she gathers from her studies to make a sustainable contribution to her country, and there's absolutely no doubt that's what Victoria is doing.

As a systems engineer at Uganda's biggest power plant, she is responsible for the maintenance, modification and development of the nation's power supply, at a pivotal point ahead of big expansion and change.

Her Electrical Power Systems Engineering online MSc from The University of Manchester is giving Victoria the skills, knowledge and confidence to truly make a difference to the way things are done at her organisation, to think innovatively and continually improve the systems she's working on. She's keen to share her learning with colleagues to support her team to find the best solutions, and to expand the skillset and the strength of the power systems industry more generally.

A BIGGER WORLD

Responsibilities at work and at home meant Victoria wasn't able to leave Uganda to study in Manchester for a year, so when the online MSc became available, she jumped at the opportunity. Victoria finds the peer to peer elements of the online course particularly valuable, learning from professionals from all over the world about different experiences and perspectives.

Through discussions with fellow students internationally, she says: "My mind has been opened to a bigger world". By working closely with engineers from countries with more robust power systems, Victoria can gather ideas of how to do things better, understand various software options, and learn from the challenges that fellow students in more developed countries have encountered.

Victoria says: "I feel like my MSc puts me in a privileged position. It's my responsibility to pass on my knowledge and hold the hand of younger engineers. Together, we can build Uganda's expertise now, and for the future".

A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

The knowledge gained from professional development is clearly important to Victoria, not just personally, but for the good of the entire industry, and her country. "Innovation", she says, "is needed to make systems work better. And innovation comes with knowledge".

She's committed to sharing her knowledge, and one day, she'd like to use her knowledge to start her own consultancy, nurturing professional expertise within Uganda to create a more self-sufficient domestic workforce which, while learning from other countries with more robust grids, does not rely on going outside the country to get expert advice.

She says: "I want to help build the expertise and confidence within the country so we can make the best decisions on how to grow, and run the energy sector efficiently and responsibly."

The prestige that comes with an MSc from The University of Manchester, and one that is accredited by the IET, is hugely significant for Victoria. It signals that she, just like engineers across the developed world, has an equal level of high-quality skills and education. It puts her, and Uganda, on a level playing field, with the confidence and skills to compete internationally.



GET IN TOUCH

Email us to arrange a personal consultation

Email: studyonline@manchester.ac.uk
www.manchester.ac.uk/power-systems

