MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester

MSc Electrical Power Systems Engineering

Part-time, online

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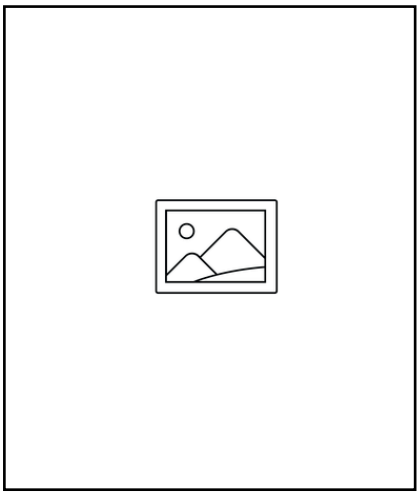
An Interview with...

Tim Waugh
Senior Design Engineer,
Siemens



Tim doesn't stand still when it comes to learning. Since starting out as an apprentice designer for a railway company at 17, Tim has always studied part-time, working his way up to the online MSc in Electrical Power Systems Engineering from The University of Manchester.

He's always looking forward, and in his final BEng year, Tim was already investigating how he could further his knowledge of power systems – something he found particularly compelling.

The University of Manchester online course came highly recommended by colleagues who had completed the full-time version in the past.

This, coupled with the University's reputation, particularly in the power systems area, meant it was a clear cut choice for him. With IET accreditation, Tim knew it would also get him one step closer to his career goal of achieving chartered status – his next step now that's he's completed his MSc.

A BALANCING ACT

Although he was already working and living in Manchester, Tim chose to do the course online. Having always combined his studies with his job, he knew this method of learning worked for him. He also wanted to remain fully engaged in his day job and use new knowledge as he acquired it.

Balancing academic work with a busy job is challenging, and it's hard to stick to a plan when things come up at work, says Tim, but by committing to doing a set amount of studying during the week and then topping up at the weekend, a balance is achievable. Being able to apply what he learns, for example in relation to power system analysis, directly to his work on wind farm protection systems provides incentive to keep at it and means his learning is always relevant and engaging.

BRINGING IN A NEW ERA

With power systems at such a critical point as we make the transition away from carbon-based solutions, Tim is genuinely thrilled to be part of something that has the potential to change the world for the better. This, he says is what keeps him going, if he ever gets overwhelmed with work, or loses motivation. "It's just really interesting and engaging, and that keeps you motivated and on track," he says.

Within the context of the government's commitment to net zero, Tim feels like now is definitely the time to be learning and upskilling, ready to be part of the next generation of power systems and bring in a new, greener era.

"Power systems is a unique area where there are constant technological advances, especially as we move closer to net zero", Tim says. "It's more important than ever to keep your skills up to date, and keep on top of new research and technologies. This MSc has given me a depth of detail and understanding that you don't get from reading a textbook."

BEING PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

It's important for Tim to stay ahead of the game and be ready to work on cutting-edge projects. This course has given him the knowledge and the confidence to speak up and be part of bigger conversations within his organisation, reinforcing his contribution to the sector as it shifts towards a more sustainable future.

He says: "I'm really happy to be part of exciting projects and to be part of the team that's responsible for implementing renewable energy and lowering our carbon footprint. It's quite exciting as an engineer to be delving in to new territory, and working on something that will really make a difference".

Two intakes per year

Begin your course in either February or September

12-30 months

MSc (IET-accredited), PGDip, PGCert

Online learning

Study online and tailor your learning around your work and other commitments.

Leading institution

World-leading reputation in Electrical Power Systems

6th BEST

University in the UK

(QS World University Rankings 2019)

23rd BEST

University in the world

(Times Higher Education World Rankings 2021)

GET IN TOUCH

Email us to arrange a personal consultation

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