

# Meet the team



## Rachel Bennet, Human Factors and Operations Lead, Engineering - Operations

**What do you love about your job?** I love the variety of every day as I support teams across the business using a variety of techniques and methods. I also love that bringing the Rolls-Royce SMR concept into reality will directly contribute to achieving Net Zero.

**Why did you choose Nuclear?** I didn't choose it specifically; more I found a job which happened to be in the nuclear industry. Now that I am in the industry though, I would choose it again and would recommend it as one to work in due to the variety of opportunities available.

**Your academic journey:** Not typical! My Dad tried to encourage me to be an engineer, but I was resistant and thought about becoming a journalist, working in marketing, and finally I planned to become a Clinical Psychologist, but the route into that career is quite long and I tripped into Ergonomics when looking for disciplines related to Psychology. I completed a BSc in Psychology with Ergonomics at Loughborough University, graduating in 2011. Whilst working at Rolls-Royce Submarines, I completed an MSc in Nuclear Science and Technology with the University of Manchester.

**Your Work Experience:** I joined Rolls-Royce Submarines on a placement year from university, and then returned to the same team after graduation. I stayed with the Human Factors team for four years, before moving to the Safety team and then into the Integration team and moving to Bristol to work directly with the Customer. I returned from Bristol into a Group Lead role, looking after approximately 20 people across three disciplines. I moved to Rolls-Royce SMR in January 2020, initially in Human Factors before expanding my scope into Operations also.

**How did you get into your specialism?** I was looking for a practical application of Psychology and spoke to a colleague of my Dads who happened to be an Ergonomist. I found the idea really interesting and applied for the undergraduate course at Loughborough University. I had the option during my first year to change my course to a pure Psychology course if I wished, which was a good option to have available when you're unsure about the topic, but thankfully I really enjoyed the course!

**What advice would you give to someone interested in doing a role similar to yours?** Never be afraid to ask questions. As a non-engineer I don't always understand the concepts or components I am reviewing but my colleagues are always happy to explain. A non-engineering background isn't a stopper to working in Engineering. For Human Factors, there are many aspects to the role which can't be taught on a typical engineering course, for example the ability to work well and integrate with lots of stakeholders and influence decisions.

**What three words would you use to describe working at Rolls-Royce SMR?** Interesting, exciting, satisfying.

**What would you say to someone considering a career with Rolls-Royce SMR?** Definitely! There are so many career opportunities, across all areas of the programme. Rolls-Royce SMR is a welcoming place to work and is focused on ensuring the workforce reflects the wider population in diversity.

