AMNA RIAZ
DPhil candidate

What inspired you to become an engineer?
My ultimate love for Maths and Physics landed me to the beautiful world of Engineering. I used to enjoy my Maths sums more than anything; I did not see myself in any other profession. I feel like I was born for that. My curiosity to know how things worked and having an appetite for understanding complicated electrical and mechanical things.

How did you get started in engineering?
After finishing my masters in electrical engineering, I landed in academia as a lecturer at the University for teaching undergrad students at the Department of Electrical Engineering.

What is an average day on the job like?
Reading research papers. Running a series of experiments and analysing the results. Writing of reports, theses or publications. The happiest days in DPhil are when your findings through research make sense, though you rarely get such days.

What has been your highest achievement to date?
I believe it has yet to come!

What attributes and skills help you in your role?
Perseverance and avoiding procrastination are essential for my daily work. Analytical thinking about my research, technical skills for running the equipment on my own and analysing the results critically. Paying keen attention to details as these minor puzzles add up to a complete disaster. Self-dependency and hard work are the core.

The best thing about your job?
It challenging yet it's inspiring, it's tough but it's worth it. The best thing about my research is it blows people's minds when they know about it and in utter amazement they say, "Wow! It's cool."

What is your top tip for girls considering Engineering?
Stereotypes in the engineering world need to be broken down and forgotten about. Otherwise, they will remain a potential barrier for women in Engineering.

Why should young women choose engineering as a career?
Well, why shouldn't they? I do not find any gender in Engineering. I do not see myself to be a lady engineer. I am just an engineer and that's enough. Women are equally clever as men, so why not? It's fun. It's innovative and it's rewarding. I think the world should change perceptions, attitudes, behaviours and social norms towards women in Engineering.

What is the best thing about your research?
It blows people's minds when they know about it and in utter amazement they say, "Wow! It's cool."

Have you experienced any gender-related challenges?
I was fortunate enough that I have never ever felt any sort of discrimination in my fields. Just because I am a woman, my judgment was never questioned and it had never happened to me that I had no opportunities.

"I think the world should change perceptions, attitudes, behaviours and social norms towards women in Engineering."

"Stereotypes in the engineering world need to be broken down and forgotten about."