


IET Diamond Jubilee Scholarship

	<p>Name: Owen Matthew McGowan</p> <p>University of Oxford</p>
<p>How did you first hear about the Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET) and the IET Diamond Jubilee Scholarships?</p> <p>I firstly heard about the IET through my studies of Engineering and Technology at GCSE level where they were referred to as one of the major institutions for the field. However I first hear of the scholarship through my careers teacher in school.</p>	
<p>What did you study at school and how did you do e.g. what grades did you get, what did you enjoy?</p> <p>At GCSE level my additionally chosen subjects were Technology, Engineering and Art & Design, all of which I thoroughly enjoyed and which I believe began my interest in the field achieving A,A*,A* respectively.</p> <p>At A-level study I undertook Maths, Physics, Business Studies and English Literature, achieving full A grades at AS. I then continued into A-level study with the decision to fully pursue the field of Engineering and Technology. I discontinued the Business Studies A-level to pick up three additional Further Maths Mechanics modules, achieving Maths A*, Physics A*, English Literature A, and averaging a high B grade over my further maths modules.</p>	
<p>What made you choose your university degree course? Tell us more about your university degree e.g. what modules are you looking forward to, do you have a gap year?</p> <p>My main influence in deciding to study Engineering Science as opposed to a straight Engineering field is the sheer breadth of areas covered as due to the extremely diverse nature of Engineering. I wanted to get a feel for a vast array of different fields within it before I finally settled on the one for me. In addition I found this course particularly interesting due to the common links made between the theory studied and the practical applications made in the</p>	

lab, not only fortifying our knowledge in such theory but also allowing for the development of a deeper understanding for the practical implications and tasks which Engineers are likely to face in employment.

How will the scholarship help you during your studies?

It goes without saying that the financial help offered by the scholarship will help in various aspects of life during my studies, in particular attending or researching related events surrounding my fields of interest beyond the curriculum (e.g. I have already attended an Artificial Intelligence seminar this term co-run by the IET and RTS in London), as well alleviating the basic living and travel expenses related to being a student studying overseas.

However I do believe that one of the most beneficial aspects of the Scholarship to me will be the links made with industry and the insight given by current members of the IET who will undoubtedly have been through the exact same stages as I am currently going through and will most likely have posed some of the exact questions which loom on my own mind. In this sense I see the scholarship as the perfect opportunity to get a head-start into a competitive field that I will too hopefully one day be largely experienced in.

Who/what does/has inspired you and why?

Some of my main inspirations for becoming an Engineer would have to be the teachers I had at school, in particular at GCSE level my Engineering and Technology teachers who always encouraged me and drove me to think farther beyond the standard curriculum at a young age. This inspiration climaxed at the point when I achieved the award of top Engineering student in Northern Ireland and it was at this stage that I had my heart set on Engineering as a field that I was not only gifted at, but one that I also thoroughly enjoyed.

How will you keep involved with the IET?

As mentioned previously one of my greatest hopes for my progression through this Scholarship scheme is to make connections and learn from members of the IET who are already employed or involved in fields of Engineering and Technology which have or may come to interest me in the future.

Not only do I intend on doing this throughout my degree as a source of additional insight and information beyond that of my course teachings, but also past my degree as either a form of employment or just contribution to the Engineering and Technology community in general.

What are your hobbies outside of studying?

As stated previously I have already attended various events surrounding the field of Engineering and Technology which I find intriguing and fully intend to follow this through for the remainder of my degree and indeed life as I find that curiosity is something which is hard to satisfy in a single meeting.

Outside of this however I also enjoy the mediocre skills of an amateur artist and will draw as and when I can find the time.

I have an avid interest in sports and personal fitness and will give almost every sport a try at least once, my personal favourites including rugby, Gaelic football and badminton.

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