

SkillsforEnergy

CAREER CASE STUDY



NAME: Virginia Ruiz

JOB: Head of Transaction Support and Analysis

COMPANY: ScottishPower

Can you describe your current role and the skills you use to undertake it?

I oversee auction strategies for offshore projects as well as support the investment and divestment transactions of the business (buying or selling projects!).

While these activities are financially heavy, they also require a deep knowledge of the technology, to understand its potential and limitations. They also require incredible amounts of coordination and alignment between different groups and stakeholders. Listening and ensuring everyone's input in the process are two of the skills I use the most!

How did you get to where you are today?

My background has been anything but a straight line! After graduating as an electrical engineer, I worked two years as database manager for a bank in the USA. I then discovered my passion for renewable energies, so I quit my job to enroll in a European master that gave me the knowledge I was looking for. Once finished, my experience in the banking sector together with my technical background allowed me to enter as an intern in the investment office for the renewables business in ScottishPower. From there, I kept looking for new things to learn and add value - and here I am! :-)

Is there anything you would do differently?

Nothing! Every experience has taught me something: new skills, different working habits or even things I do not want in my future. Those are important lessons too. Therefore, enjoy every step of the way!

What do you enjoy about your current role?

The feeling that I am having a positive impact on the environment and our future. Also, the ability to interact with so many different people every day and the chance to keep growing and learning.

If you could give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be and why?

Don't worry too much about where you are going. Just make the most of the ride. And, when in doubt, take the chance and **DO IT!**

What challenges/successes have you experienced so far in your career or pathway to your career?

I didn't have many female engineers' role models, and that always made me a bit self-conscious. My industry is also very male oriented, so I have encountered some individuals who at times made me feel small because of the different approach I bring to things. However, I have had far more supporters in my career than opponents. Thanks to them I have proven to myself and to others what I was capable of, achieving a senior position in my company as a young female, ensuring a good work-life balance for me and my team, and a couple of industry distinctions along the way!

What attracted you to the energy industry?

The fact that renewables could be the solution to decarbonise our world and there is so much to do! So, I was attracted by the challenge, the possibilities and the impressive shift that this industry is undergoing.

What does the future look like for females within the energy industry?

I would say **very** promising! The scale of change and the variety of challenges ahead of us makes it imperative that women join the effort! Only through diversity of thought and way of doing things we can ensure a successful, inclusive and just transition for all.

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