

A Perspective: Supporting Women in Science and Engineering with BCU and Meridian Lightweight Technologies UK (MLTUK)

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Well reported figures detail the lack of women in the engineering industry, for example, the IET Skills Survey 2016 reporting women make up only 9% of all engineering and technology employees. Gender diversity remains a huge challenge for the sector, including that of the casting industries. Birmingham City University (BCU) and Meridian Lightweight Technologies UK (MLTUK) are working together to develop opportunities to support women as they enter this exciting world of engineering.

New, more appealing courses

At Birmingham City University we are challenged with very low numbers of female undergraduates studying our engineering courses 5% which falls below the sector mean. We have recently undertaken a radical rewrite of our curriculum, taking the opportunity to widen the appeal of our courses which we will deliver from September 2017.

Support students and staff

To support the students and staff, BCU is an institutional member of Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) and we have a new WISE society.

Institutional support

We have been awarded Athena Swan Bronze award which supports our journey towards a more balanced work force.

Industrial support

Sponsored by MLTUK we have three student bursaries available. Potential students will be invited to apply, and the winning candidates will receive not only monetary support, but a valuable opportunity to spend a month working with MLTUK in the summer at the end of the first year of study. This will be in place for students starting their courses in September 2017.

Benefits for MLTUK

Talented engineering students to undertake project work. Opportunities to promote the magnesium industry while working towards a more diverse workforce.

Gain further insight into the work Birmingham City University are doing to support women in Science and Engineering at the Magnesium Symposium on 20th July. [Register today.](#)

References

Institute of Engineering Technology (2016) Skills and Demand in Industry Survey, (IET)