

LGBT+ Careers Panel

Thursday 17 February 2022

[LGBT+ History Month](#) in February celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history and people. This event provides an opportunity for university students who identify as LGBT+ (and allies of the community) to hear from LGBT+ professionals in a range of inclusive employers including:

Arlene McDermott (She/Her)

Head of Business Management Group Legal and Compliance

[London Stock Exchange Group](#)

Working on Catherine Johnson's leadership team as Head of Business Management Arlene is dedicated to enhancing ways of working and promoting collaboration. Arlene is also Co Global Lead of LSEG's LGBTQ+ network LSEG Pride. The network has had a huge impact on LSEG, enjoying support from the most senior levels of the organisation. Arlene has participated in numerous panels, including for myGwork, Lesbian Visibility Week, London School of Economics and recently for Women in Banking Finance. She has also been listed on the Pride Power List 2020 and 2021, Global Diversity List 2020, Visible Lesbian 100 list 2020 and 2021, OUTstanding 100 LGBT+ Executives List 2020 and recently won the European Diversity Award for Inspirational Role Model 2021.

Brian Smith (He/Him)

Senior Cryogenic Equipment Engineer

[Air Products](#)

Brian Smith joined Air Products in 2013 as part of the graduate program after finishing a master's degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Newcastle. He undertook 4 different assignments across the business, including a year in Belgium, before accepting a permanent role as an Equipment Engineer. He currently looks after the design and operation of standard customer equipment in the European region. This includes equipment such as storage vessels, vaporisers, and pressure reduction/regulation panels. During his time with the Air Products, he has worked in 13 different countries across the EMEA region. Brian currently lives in Surrey with his husband.

Ivy Speight (She/Her)

Principal Systems Engineer

[Leonardo](#)

Ivy has worked in engineering since graduating from Loughborough University in 2015; starting her career as a Graduate Electronics Engineer, and progressing through the ranks to end up as a Principal Electronics Engineer at MBDA. She picked up various responsibilities during her career, including mentoring students and early careers programme employees and was the Gender Identity Representative for Pride at MBDA for around 2 years. Ivy's been involved in policy work for gender transition in the work place, presented to the company and external stakeholders (i.e. Airbus, the RAF) on gender identity and equality, and attended various in person events including London Pride as part of MBDA. Recently Ivy has moved to Leonardo as a Principal Systems Engineer (which is technically a step up from the similarly named role at MBDA) and is pushing to get involved in similar LGBTQ+ inclusive events and communities there.

James Kendall (He/Him)

Consultant Materials Scientist

[TTP](#)

James joined TTP as a graduate 3 years ago with an MSci in Materials Science from the University of Cambridge. Alongside his role as a consultant in the Energy & Materials team, he recently initiated a Pride network to connect LGBTQ+ people across the company of 400+ employees. Although still in its infancy, socials have started to bring the community together, and initiatives for visibility and education are taking off. Day-to-day, James works on technology development projects for clients primarily in the speciality materials and advanced manufacturing markets. Specifically, this involves remaining hands-on in the lab through working in or leading project teams, managing client relationships and seeking out opportunities with new clients. Outside work, James is a keen triathlete, enjoys playing saxophone in a local concert band, and regularly has fun getting beaten in the work squash league.

Taylor Bradford (She/Her)

Customer Quality Assurance - Industrial Engineering Placement

[Cummins](#)

Taylor is a Geophysics Undergraduate at the University of Leeds on a placement year at the engineering company Cummins Ltd. Her job involves managing portions of well-defined and challenging projects, actively supporting customer engine's failure investigations. Her involvement at Cummins goes beyond her role as she actively participates as a member of European Pride, Women Empowerment Network, and the Diversity & Inclusion Board. Taylor is a member of The British Interplanetary Society and loves everything "space" and she is currently working towards obtaining fellowship at The Royal Astronomical Society. Society of Women Engineers is another membership Taylor holds, it's the world's largest advocate and catalyst for change for women in engineering and technology. In her spare time, Taylor loves reading non-fiction books, particularly physics and self-development books and regularly signs up to virtual events held by world-leading organisations such as CERN and NASA.

With additional thanks to the [IQ committee](#) and [LGBTQ+ Liberation & Community Officer](#) for their support in partnering on this event as part of LGBT+ History Month.