

UK REFLECTIONS



FRITHA MCCRIMMON-ROBINSON

Civil Water Team Lead / Senior Civil Engineer, Stantec

WHAT WERE THREE HIGHLIGHTS OF WORKING IN THE UK?

Being the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Officer at the Environment Agency and being part of the response team to the floods in the North East of England was a highlight. I was out in the community checking on the status of the affected residents and collecting data, I was then responsible for investigating flood protection solutions.

A highlight was being heavily involved with schools and encouraging students to pursue a career in STEM/ Engineering. Getting feedback from these students on the impact I had made on their career choices made me feel like I was making a real difference. One work experience student I looked after said: “you were the reason I decided to become an engineer and come to Stantec. You inspired me and encouraged me. I wanted to work for you and follow in your footsteps”.

It was a highlight being presented the WISE Rising Star from HRH Princess Anne and being listed in the Top 100 Most influential People in Engineering in the UK and Europe.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN YOUR ROLE IN THE UK THAT YOU HAVE PUT INTO PRACTISE IN YOUR NEW ROLE IN NEW ZEALAND?

I can bring a unique perspective to my projects in New Zealand drawing on my experience in the UK and vice versa. For example, I was exposed to projects with vast amounts of flooding that I would not have had the opportunity to work on in New Zealand.

Due to my experience with the UK flooding and Christchurch Earthquake I was also invited to present at many events and conferences. This meant that I have been able to develop my public speaking skills. I also had the opportunity to speak at lots of school and university events developing these public speaking skills further.

I worked often within a client office and on a joint venture with a contractor, so this gave me exposure to all aspects of a project that you don't necessarily get to see usually.

WHAT WERE THREE HIGHLIGHTS OF LIVING IN THE UK

A highlight of living in the UK was being well connected for international travel around Europe (pre COVID). It was fantastic being able to pop over to Barcelona for a weekend or nip to Santorini for a short trip.

All the history was amazing. We visited so many castles, cathedrals, and historic towns. We even got married in a castle!

But the biggest highlight had to be the great friends that we made and keep in touch with. Hopefully, we can all cross paths again in the future once COVID is a thing of the past.