



ACOUSTICS

National Memorial Arboretum - Acoustics cfd

Jake Willcocks, Graduate Engineer, talks about his experience working in the acoustic team.

"Acoustics is...

- *The difference between a room feeling oppressive or open, echoing or calm*
- *Being able to hear a speaker on a podium or just a jumble of voices*
- *Having a private, confidential talk or an open conversation*
- *Bringing clarity to a speaker or depth to an orchestral performance"*

The uses of acoustics are many and varied; they can be frontstage, backstage (in the rafters, walls or floor), eye-catching or blend into the background.

The most frequent occasion when acoustics is noticed is when it is not being done right.

We all have noises that we find distracting, disturbing or annoying. Your job as an acoustic engineer with us would be to integrate control measures and design strategies into building design to minimise and, where possible, remove, this disturbance.

You may work with architects, engineers, contractors, designers, suppliers, environmental health officers and more. You may work in the design stages of a project, all the way up to completion. This can be for new and refurbished buildings. Of course, there are also limits on what can be done, physically and financially, so you need to be creative and innovative to get your desired result.

As a specialism, there will always be a demand for your services and at least one of the following will help you progress professionally:

- A professional qualification i.e. degree, diploma or equivalent in a related or relevant subject
- Some experience with maths and/or physics – (if you are passionate about these, all the better!!!) – however most of this would be taught if you take a degree or diploma in a acoustics

Things that can help:

- Prior experience with engineering (independently or with another company)
- Any work experience or placements taken
- Good problem solving skills
- Good people skills (for in the office and when on site)

There are very many sides to acoustics work – survey work (internal and external), modelling in 2D and 3D (instantaneous or continuous), carrying out desk work (yes, that means reports and specifications!) and fieldwork - AND you may even get the chance to develop your own product! Why not take a look at Cundall VAR.

With professional qualifications, comes the opportunity to go for Chartered status, which requires time in profession and knowledge of the many different aspects of the profession. This is a hard but worthwhile commitment improving both your standing as a professional and your appeal to a company.

Your work may take you around the country or even out of it (surveys and meetings). Currently, the Cundall Acoustic team have projects in Bucharest, Hong Kong, Australia and Scotland to name a few.

Key projects include; Lusail Stations and Platforms Design, Friar's Mill, National Memorial Arboretum, Snow Hill Design and Snobs Club Relocation.



JAKE WILLCOCKS

Joined 2013
Graduate Engineer