



Amy Potter is a Naval Architect at Steller Systems. She joined the team in 2020 after graduating from the University of Newcastle with an MEng in Marine Technology with Honours in Naval Architecture.

Amy has just completed the Steller Systems Graduate Scheme and we asked her to reflect on her time in the scheme.

What originally attracted you to work at Steller Systems?

Steller Systems is a marine design consultancy – this allows you to work on projects covering the full engineering field, from stability and hydrodynamics, to structures right through to marine engineering. The variety of work on offer at Steller Systems, allows you to gain experience and extend your skill set quickly. From the first day of joining Steller Systems, you will be working on real-life projects, learning from experience as opposed to alternative graduate schemes which involve further studying and exams. The graduate scheme at Steller System is not highly structured; as a graduate you have a say in which projects or engineering field you want to gain more experience in, which allows a more efficient route to chartered status. Steller Systems aims to accommodate any training or industry placements you as a graduate want to undertake. Finally, as a graduate in a small company you are also involved in a range of company activities – not just engineering work – such as the project bidding process.

How have you used your naval architecture and marine engineering training at Steller Systems?

During my time at Steller Systems I have been involved in both naval architecture and marine engineering based projects. I have utilised CAD skills working on various concept and detailed design projects. My structure design skill set was used when conducting FEA analysis to evaluate and optimise both existing vessels designs and new design concepts. I have used intact and damage stability knowledge I learnt at university extensively, conducting a Limiting KG analysis on various concept vessels, a Survivability and Escape and Evacuation (E&E) assessment of a military vessel using a time domain analysis approach, and analysis to determine the effectiveness of a damage control design concept. In the marine engineering field, I have been involved in the design of optimal propulsion configurations, including those which utilise alternative fuels and sustainable technologies. I also had the opportunity to survey the lub oil purification system onboard a large military vessel.

What is the best thing about working at Steller Systems?

Steller Systems has been really supportive of my Continuing Professional Development (CPD), giving me a wide variety of experiences both in and out of the office. There have been several opportunities to visit dockyards and customer sites giving me a broad view of the industry. I also greatly enjoyed undertaking a placement covering stability and hydrodynamics within the MOD. Steller Systems offers collaborative working and a learning environment ideal for those at the start of their career. The team are friendly and committed to working towards the same common goal together in a supportive manner.

What advice would you give a graduate leaving university?

Take every opportunity offered! There is never an end to learning and you never know where a given opportunity might take you.