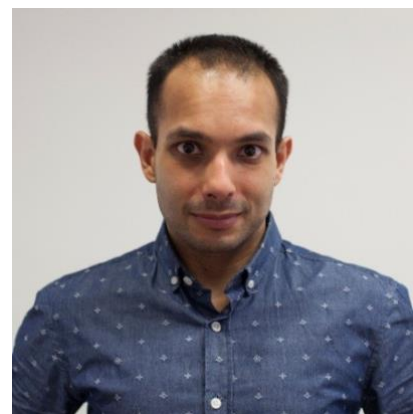


FIND *your* FUTURE**Anirban Basak****Job title:** Principal Electrical Engineer at AECOM**Graduation date:** 2005**Degree:** MEng, Electronic and Electrical Engineering**What makes successful candidates stand out?**

The awareness of where the technology is moving is very important. The first principles of engineering don't change, what changes is the new technology that you can implement in your design. I'm not saying you need to know or predict where the technology is going to be in 15 years, but a good benchmark is knowing what kind of technology is being implemented in some of the main sectors.

This is an evolving sector. There are always new ways of finding a solution. For example Tesla are trying to build new battery systems, which obviously includes a lot of R&D, but we build the factories that can actually produce what has been developed, so the infrastructure has to be a very resilient system.

What does a normal work day look like for you?

As my work is electrical design, that's what I do most of the time, it also involves calculations, interacting with the wider design teams, meetings with the guys from China and New Zealand, which is one of the reasons my hours are so long – the time difference; we can work up to 10-13 hour days.

What do you enjoy the most about your work?

I enjoy being involved in such a fast moving sector, where I implement new design and manufacturing solutions. We are at the forefront of technology. That also means that you have to learn on the job, which is very enjoyable. Something that you learnt three years ago can be obsolete now.

I also like the interactions with different engineering cultures as well. For example I work with German engineers now and they work very differently to how we work in the UK, but you learn a lot from that.

What advice would you give to someone looking to get into this field?

First of all there is a shortage of electrical engineers in Western Europe, so we are always on the lookout. For whatever reason engineering is not very popular among European students.

If you are practicing engineering you can practice anywhere in the world, because as I said, the first principles don't change. So engineering actually presents a very good opportunity to travel.

Lastly, as I said, being aware of the new technologies available, not only on the software side, but also in the heavy engineering sector, because this will be advantageous at the interview stage for example.