

UNPAUSE YOUR CAREER

ENGINEER YOUR
NEXT STEP UP



Alicia Kotsiopoulos
GradIEAust



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

YOU'VE MADE IT TO ANOTHER WEEK, MONTH OR YEAR AS AN ENGINEER.

But you're feeling stuck. Uninspired. Like everyone else's career is on fast-forward and yours is paused.

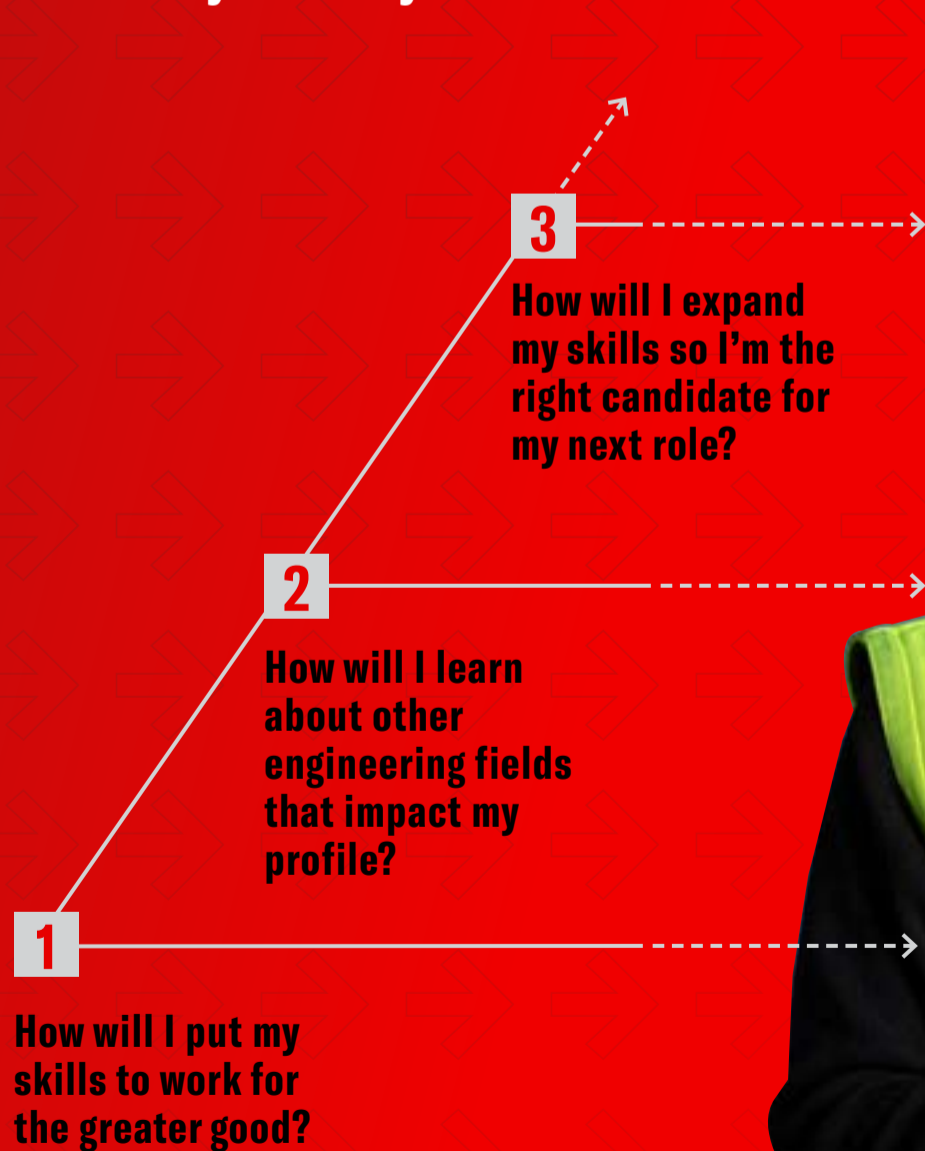
You think there's something you're missing. A question you haven't asked, or a situation you haven't prepared yourself for.

Nobody enjoys feeling like this.

Whether you're into your first graduate position or still deciding which field of engineering to specialise in, your future success depends on owning your career through today's decisions.

DECISIVE MOMENTS

At each critical moment in your career, you have a choice: to take action and move to the next level. Or to stay where you are.



Hamish Kerr
GradIEAust



THERE IS A WAY FORWARD

What really sets successful engineers apart is not pure technical ability.

It's the choices they've made at each point in their career to set themselves up for the next step.

If you're ready to hit 'unpause' on your career, there are three key plays you can make right now.

HOW ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA HELPS

At Engineers Australia, we understand your career trajectory — from graduate right through to senior engineer or principal. As Australia's largest engineering organisation, we deliver training, support, accreditation and representation for nearly 100,000 engineers across all disciplines.

Here's what we've seen work for engineers like you. No matter where your career is (or is yet to be), engineers move forward when they:



Find the right career contacts through networking and mentoring opportunities. Build the relationships that will see you through your career.



Access 24/7 training and professional development. Take on whatever you can manage - from short, mobile-friendly CPD content to a long-term credential like Chartered.



Be strategic with your next move. Connect with a mentor to set yourself up for career success.



My dream is to make a difference to our transport networks and solve major problems. I've worked on some significant projects, and networking with senior engineers has helped me to get in front of new opportunities and make good decisions.

- David, Transport Engineer GradIEAust, member since 2013



CONNECT

THE PLAY: Make the most of networking and mentoring opportunities to create long-term relationships.

Feeling like you don't know the right people? If you've just moved for a new role (or 2020 meant your network wasn't growing), it's time to start intentionally making connections to move your career forward.

Even for the most extroverted person, it can be difficult to walk through the door, and introduce yourself to total strangers. Set yourself a small goal and get it done - even something as simple as getting two business cards and following up with a brief email asking about one thing your new contact mentioned.

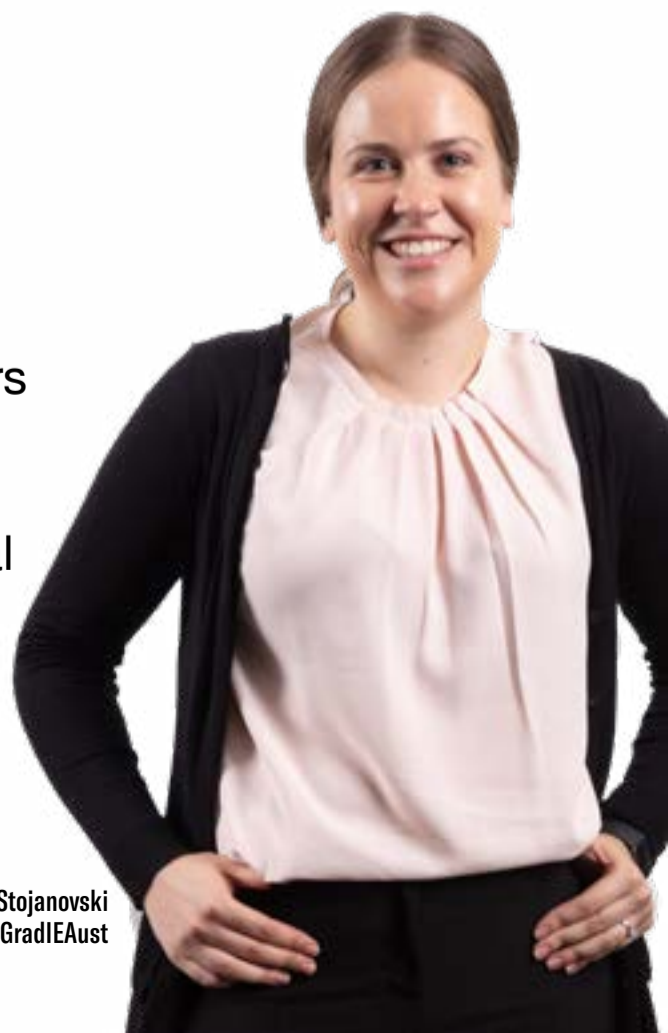
Networking is best when it's done with no agenda - don't go into the room looking for how you can use people. Instead, think about what you can offer. You just never know what doors that will open for you.

WHY?

Progress is easier with the right people cheering you on.

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA'S NETWORKING SERIES

In person or online, whatever the circumstances - EA connects engineers at many levels over shared passions. These events often combine practical learning with building your professional network, or sometimes just gathering to talk about your latest project or ideas. As an engineer (or a future engineer), you're always welcome.



Volunteering Opportunities

If you're a practical person, EA has ways for you to build your professional network by giving back. Join one of our Young Engineers Australia (YEA) committees or groups, and move from attending events to creating them. From a Welcome to the Profession event, a Case Competition, or even a Hackathon, there's plenty that we organise every year. Working as a team with other engineers forms professional relationships that will carry through your whole career.

Exclusive Graduate Jobs Board

Want to find the best graduate and early career roles in Australia? Our members-only jobs board brings the best engineering employers in Australia straight to you. We advertise roles up to 4 years post-graduation, from graduate positions to internships and vacation placements. Your next opportunity could be waiting.

Engineering is such a big industry and it's hard to know where to start. I went to careers expos and events and talked to people from EA and other organisations, and they helped to point me in the right direction. You have to make that first step, find a connection and decide to go with it.

– Hayden, HVAC Engineer: GradIEAust, member since 2018

I made a big jump last year, switching from an office-based role as a structural engineer to a site-based civil engineer. I felt pigeonholed and like there wasn't a lot of room to grow - so I needed to change things up. It was scary to make the change, but now I'm learning and putting new skills to use every day. I've got direction and I'm heading towards a project management role.

**- Elsie, Civil Engineer MIEAust
member since 2014**





LEARN

THE PLAY: As an engineer, professional development and training are non-negotiable. You need to keep learning, even straight after you've finished university.

Feeling out of your depth? Although university might prepare you technically, there are still plenty of skills to learn:



Whether you've been lucky enough to score a graduate position with a formal program of training or not, keeping up to date is still your responsibility.

OUR TIP: Create a calendar of training for yourself, to see how you're going to meet your CPD hours each year in a way that's relevant to what you need to know. That way, you can take small, consistent steps towards success.

WHY?

Learning is something to intentionally prioritise, and a clear pathway will help.

YEA CPD Series

As you move into the professional world, the CPD Series will bridge the gap between what you learned at university and what you need to know to succeed in your graduate position. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours are a must for every engineer, and these count towards your yearly tally. Packed with practical learning that you can apply on the job, the CPD Series covers topics like communication, ethics and effective presentations.

YEA Tech Talk Series

Technology is constantly evolving, and the Tech Talk series is here to keep you informed. No matter your field of engineering, there's a Tech Talk for you; with topics from the latest versions of software to innovations you need to know about. You won't find a more comprehensive way to keep up!

Bite Sized Learning

Bite Sized Learning is created specifically for graduate members of EA. It's mobile-friendly training that you can digest on your lunch break, and it all counts towards your CPD hours. With video content, interactive activities and informative case studies, you'll be a step ahead of your peers in record time.

It's so important to keep on learning. Look at the senior engineers of today - the technology that we use wasn't around when they first started, and if they didn't develop then they wouldn't be able to do their jobs today. The exact same thing is ahead in our future, and we'll have to keep developing.

– Hayden, HVAC Engineer: GradIEAust, member since 2018



GROW

THE PLAY: Get out of your comfort zone and into a formal mentoring relationship. Connect with someone who's been where you're going to accelerate your career.

Feeling like success is out of your reach? It's rare to find someone successful who didn't have trusted advisors to call on. Mentoring can be an important step towards gathering those trusted advisors for your career. But in an unstructured mentoring relationship, there sometimes aren't clear expectations or boundaries.

At EA, we've found that mentoring programs are the single most requested career progress tool for early career engineers. Finding someone who you can trust, ask questions and learn from is an intimidating choice - but a totally necessary one if you want to grow and move forward.

WHY?

So you don't have to make hard decisions alone.

As an early career engineer, the Engineers Australia mentorship program has been really useful for me. It connected me to senior engineers in the industry, building bridges to network with industry experts from outside my organisation and from really diverse backgrounds and experiences.

-David, Transport Engineer: GradIEAust, member since 2013

Mentor Match

Mentoring is the number one way to guide your career development. What's more useful than directed guidance from someone who's been where you want to go? EA's unique Mentor Match tool taps into thousands of senior engineers to match you with someone in your field. They might be across the city or across the globe, but we'll connect you with them over a structured six-month program.

Chartered

While the Chartered credential may be something you've thought of for the future, many graduate engineers are taking steps right now to become Chartered. Chartered engineers can run their own projects, take on senior responsibilities and even have their experience recognised worldwide. To become the best engineer that you can be, Chartered is the right learning journey. If Chartered is one of your career goals, intentionally work with a Chartered engineer as your mentor.

There have been definite moments when I've been at a crossroads, wondering which path to take. Getting advice from others in the industry has been a huge help, and people are always willing to share their insights. It's okay to stop and ask a question - either of a mentor, a teacher or colleague - it shows that you're listening and willing to learn.

-Carine, Graduate Project Engineer: GradIEAust, member since 2020

UNLOCK THESE PLAYS AND MORE

As a member of Engineers Australia, these plays are all free as part of your membership.

For content, support and opportunities you can't find with any other organisation, there's no better way to kickstart your career progress.

Even better, you're eligible for reduced membership fees with EA in your first three years as a graduate engineer.

5 SIMPLE STEPS ← JOINING ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA

1

Create an EA ID

(you may already have one of these)

2

Confirm your Membership Type

3

Submit your application for Membership

4

Pay Membership Fee

5

Membership Confirmation



MAKE YOUR PLAY

**UNPAUSE YOUR
CAREER AND BECOME
A MEMBER TODAY.**

Start your application today.

Prefer to talk to someone?
Call our Customer Engagement
Team on 1300 653 113



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