Why are female engineers needed?

Did anything or anyone in particular inspire you to become an engineer?
I spent a considerable part of my childhood making detailed drawings on A0 paper of city infrastructures. My cities were drawn from a bird’s-eye view and included detailed residential houses, inspired by Scandinavian architecture with carefully drawn furniture designed by Arne Jacobsen and electronics by Bang & Olufsen.

What is your research area?
My research area focuses on optimizing the design of slender large-scale structures prone to vibrations, such as wind turbines.

What is the best thing about your job?
My position allows me to be creative, spend time to objectively gather in-depth knowledge, and gives an opportunity to contribute to my research topic.

What key attributes help you in your role?
Persistence, creativity and high ambitions.

What is an average day on the job like?
A majority of my time is spent solving analytic challenges encountered in equations, which I then implement numerically and test in a computer programme or with measurements from real structures. When I do not succeed in overcoming these challenges, I have scheduled meetings with international experts within or outside of Oxford, to discuss how these can be overcome.

Have you faced any gender-related challenges and how did you overcome them?
I have learned to immediately respond to and address inappropriate comments related to my gender. The challenges I have faced have mostly been related to gender-role stereotypes of researchers in science.

What has been your proudest moment to date?
I was proud to receive the Christian Torp-Petersen’s grant, which is awarded to excellent students that promote a good atmosphere in the classroom. By interacting open-mindedly with students my imagination was stimulated as well as my ability to learn new topics.

Why should young women choose engineering as a career?
Through engineering you will learn to systematically and independently solve complex problems, which will give you confidence to progress in a wide range of positions throughout your career.

What top tip would you give to girls/women considering a career in engineering?
Nurture your curiosity and be true to yourself.

“My position allows me to be creative, spend time to objectively gather in-depth knowledge, and gives an opportunity to contribute to my research topic.”

“I have learned to immediately respond to and address comments related to my gender.”