Constance Crozier  
DPhil candidate

“Engineering develops critical thinking and problem solving skills which are useful in countless career paths.”

How did you get started in engineering?  
I completed an MEng in Engineering Science at the University of Oxford in July 2016, specialising in Information Engineering. I joined the EPG in October 2016 as a graduate student and am supervised by Professor McCulloch.

What is your research area?  
My undergraduate specialty was in Information Engineering, and I am now using these skills to investigate the impact of electric vehicle charging on the power grid.

What is an average day on the job like?  
I spend most of my time programming, analysing data and setting up simulations. If I’m not doing that I’m probably reading research papers, or writing my own. I sometimes do this from the lab, sometimes from home, and sometimes in one of the libraries.

What key attributes and skills do you think help you in your role?  
I have a very analytical mind, which helps me tackle problems (this is essentially what research is about). I’ve also learned to be self-motivated, which is effectively necessary for a PhD student.

What top tip would you give to girls or women considering a career in Engineering?  
To just go for it. Engineering develops critical thinking and problem solving skills which are useful in countless career paths. You can always chose to do something else later, but you’ll never know if you don’t try it.

What is the best thing about your job?  
The fact that I’m working on a real-world problem, which my research could directly help to solve.