



 **in Schools**

Katelyn Chelberg

KEY FACTS

Current role: Master of Engineering Graduate

Company: University of Cambridge

Country: F1® in Schools UK

Years competing: 2015- 2017

School: Robert May's School

Having embarked on a degree in Engineering at one of the world's most prestigious universities in 2019, Katelyn graduated from the University of Cambridge with Honours with Distinction in 2023 and is now set to embark on a career in operations consulting with UK organisation Newton. Taking part in F1 in Schools as team leader of Enigma UK, who went on to become UK National Champions before competing at the 2016 World Finals, Katelyn secured a place in the Williams Engineering Academy as a result of her participation, an experience which provided an invaluable insight into the world of engineering.

CASE STUDY



World Finals 2016



Engima UK with their car



Part of the Aramco F1 in Schools 2023 World Finals

PURSUE YOUR OWN INTERESTS

“Thanks to my school’s engineering department, I had the opportunity to take part in F1 in Schools. One of the best parts of the challenge is the range of roles and responsibilities available to team members, and the flexibility for teams to assign them as they see fit. It allows students to specialise in areas of interest and skill within a team setting. It’s really well-rounded competition that appealed to my interests in engineering, business, and entrepreneurship.”

LEARNING AN ARRAY OF SKILLS

“Long-term, student-led, team projects are not normally offered to students until University. It provided me with invaluable skills early as my team worked together to meet strict deadlines and deliver high-quality work. On the technical side, I learned a lot about CAD design, manufacturing, and aerodynamics. I also gained a deeper understanding of physics and mechanics, which later complemented my A-level work. On the soft skills side, I learned a lot about teamwork, communication, and project management. Other important things learnt through the competition was confidence in speaking with subject matter experts, as well as in communicating via email and in other professional settings with sponsors. It felt like managing a project for a large company, and I’m grateful for the experience.”

A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

“ I competed in the junior division for a year before competing in the senior division. In the senior division my team won the UK finals and competed in the Texas World Finals 2016, placing fourth overall, winning Best Enterprise award and gaining five nominations, including for the Best Research & Development and Best Engineered Car awards. After enjoying competing so much, I judged at the UK regionals and national the following year. Later, at the 2017 Malaysia and 2023 Singapore World Finals, I was thrilled to be on the other side of the table, judging the verbal presentations of other competitors.”

OPPORTUNITIES OPENED

“ Even after several years at university, employers are really keen to hear about my experiences with F1 in Schools during internship and job interviews. Having a deep understanding of the project and how it relates to both technical and soft skills has consistently impressed employers. It’s given me confidence as I’ve been able to draw upon my experiences to describe key transferrable skills and abilities. Overall, I think that my involvement in the competition has helped me stand out and has opened up a lot of doors for me.”

“ My advice to any students thinking about taking part in F1 in Schools would be to go for it! It’s a really fun and rewarding competition.

I recommend getting involved in a variety of areas, from designing and building the car to creating the enterprise portfolio, and to embrace the team aspect of the competition. F1 in Schools is a really fun way to start building an extracurricular portfolio.

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