



worldskills  
UK Alumni

## Melanie Adlam: Electronics

**Competed in:** WorldSkills Calgary 2009 – Team UK  
**Awarded:** Medallion for Excellence  
**Home town:** St. Albans  
**Region:** East of England  
**Date of birth:** 03/04/1987  
**Age at competition:** 22  
**Employer:** MBDA UK  
**Learning provider:** University of Bristol

### Qualifications

- Studying for a Masters in Electrical and Electronic Engineering



### What was your route into Team UK?

A former WorldSkills Expert saw Melanie at work and suggested that she entered the national competitions, WorldSkills UK. Melanie achieved success during the national competition and was invited to the selection process for WorldSkills. Melanie was a winner at the Squad Selection and with a subsequent win at the Team Selection she was then awarded a place in Team UK.

### Why did you choose to get involved with WorldSkills?

As an Engineering student Melanie is mainly interested in electronics. Having done soldering courses for work she found that the assembly side of the job was just as enjoyable as the design.

*“The competition seemed like a really interesting challenge. It was a great opportunity for me to use some of my practical skills that are rarely used at University.”*

### What training did you undertake as part of your journey to WorldSkills and what impact did this have on your life?

Melanie followed an intensive training plan that was specifically designed to raise certain areas of her skill and to build on her existing knowledge.

*“I did loads of theoretical work on my circuit design and practical training on the assembly side as well. I had to fit all of the extra training around my work and university commitments so I was extremely busy during the six months leading up to WorldSkills.”*

### What was WorldSkills like?

*“WorldSkills was mad! It was a really good competition and it was fantastic that I was out there competing.”*

### What did you have to do during the competition?

Melanie completed a total of five modules during the 22 hours of competition. Each module had its own deadline throughout the competition period. The Electronics competition covered a huge range of different skills required within the industry and the five modules tested Melanie in areas such as circuit and PCB design, faultfinding, assembly and software use.

### Who inspired you during your journey to WorldSkills?

*“The effort and talent of Team UK really encouraged me throughout the competition process. Every time we met as a group you could sense everyone’s desire to achieve their best and it really inspired me to do the same.”*

**What did being part of Team UK and competing at WorldSkills mean to you?**

*"It was a privilege to represent the UK in my skill and to be part of a team of such interesting and skilled people."*

**How did it feel to receive a Medallion for Excellence?**

When Melanie started the competition process and training programme she had no idea that she would go all the way to WorldSkills.

*"I was really chuffed with the Medallion for Excellence! It was amazing to be there and to reach the WorldSkills standard as well."*

**What has competing done for you both personally and professionally?**

The skills and knowledge that Melanie has gained will help with her future career and professional life.

*"Personally the competition has helped me to mature and has given me self-motivation. I have also learned to work in new ways."*

**What is the dream?**

*"When I finish my course at University next year I hope to go on and start a career in Electronics that I find challenging and interesting."*

**Would you encourage others to get involved in WorldSkills?**

*"Of course. It's a great experience that you gain a lot from. It is good to get involved no matter how far you get."*

**What do you think of the event being held in London in 2011?**

*"I'm hoping Team UK will do even better this time but I also think the competition will showcase skills and their importance."*



For more information about the WorldSkills, UK Alumni, contact the UK Skills communications team:  
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