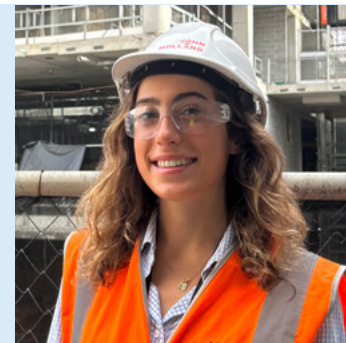


Meet Harriet Carroll

An undergraduate Site Engineer at John Holland, working on the construction of the Sydney Children's Hospital Stage 1 and Minderoo Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre



In support of the NSW Government's Hard Work Knows No Gender awareness campaign, we sat down with Harriet to find out why she is pursuing a career in construction and what she enjoys about working on site.

What are your qualifications, Harriet?

Bachelor of Construction and Property Management.

Please describe your current job?

I work at John Holland as an undergraduate Site Engineer, assisting the Project Engineer Supervisor. Day-to-day I check product, work with subcontractors, analyse drawings and take photos to record progress.

What's the best part of your job?

Every day brings exciting new information and tasks, all critical to my studies and future career. I also like giving my friends fun facts about concrete.

What's the most challenging part of your job?

Not putting pressure on yourself for not immediately understanding the information coming at you. It's a lot to take in at first.

What sparked your interest in a construction career?

I've always loved being organised - whether that's mapping my week by the hour or laying out clothes the day before. Applying that to the management of a large system factoring in people, time and cost really appealed. I like being surrounded by constant movement, and according to my family, I can be bossy...

What's next careerwise? And, in the longer term?

I hope to move up the hierarchy as I learn. I want to be a Project Director - to use knowledge gained over many years and inspire others to follow.

What is the one project you'd most like to manage or lead?

I feel lucky to have commenced my career on the Sydney Children's Hospital. Helping to build a facility that aids sick children has been the highlight of my year.

What skills and attributes do you need for your role?

- Determination – try your best and push through obstacles.
- Social skills – talk, learn, teach and participate in all aspects on site.
- Love of learning – whether it's new software, rules or regulations - you adapt continuously.

What is your best career advice for those considering a career in the construction industry?

Focus on balance. You need to rest, study and make time for yourself to counter the demands of the job.

For those interested in doing work experience in the construction industry – what would you recommend?

Retain everything. Industry experience will teach you a thousand more things than study.

During the first days on the job, try to...

- Ask all the questions – there are no silly ones.
- Accept everything you are asked to do, learn through life experience and figure out your specialisation.
- Introduce yourself – know the faces and what people do.

For more information on the Sydney Children's Hospital Stage 1 and Minderoo Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre project, visit: randwickcampusredevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au/projects/sch1

For more information on Women in Construction, visit: nsw.gov.au/employment/women-construction