

June 2015

The Hospitals Zone was a themed zone funded by the Wellcome Trust. The work of the participating engineers covered areas such as developing medical diagnostic machines, designing hospitals to be safe from fire and researching new ways of manufacturing medicines. The Hospitals Zone was one of the smaller June zones in terms of registered students, however the live chats were consistently busy and the ratio of questions approved to those submitted was above average. Engineering in hospitals was one of several themes amongst others, rather than the main focus of the Zone. Other themes were the appeal of engineering, subject advice, and the personal motivations and preferences of the engineers. The majority of the engineers engaged well in the Zone, and the top four answered a similar number of questions in ASK.







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PAGE VIEWS	HOSPITALS ZONE	JUNE '15 AVERAGE
Total zone	23,706	19,241
ASK page	1,927	1,490
CHAT page	5,007	3,100
VOTE page	1,427	1,437

Popular topics

Questions from students mostly focused on engineering as a career in general, rather than the specifics of engineers in hospitals. The most popular questions were 'What made you want to become an engineer?' and 'What's the best thing about being an engineer?'

	HOSPITALS ZONE	JUNE '15 ZONES AVERAGE	IAE 2012-15 AVERAGE
Students	365	413	356
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	89%	87%	83%
Questions asked	530	727	518
Questions approved	220	229	195
Answers given	511	455	435
Comments	17	27	41
Votes	292	311	277
Lines of live chat	5,373	5,574	4,896
Live chats	18	19	16
Average lines of live chat	306	290	305
Schools	10	11	9

There were some questions specifically about

engineering in hospitals and the theme of hospitals was evident in the answers from the engineers, for example Simon talking about medical devices safety in response to a question about the technical parts of his job. The information in the engineers' profiles was also used to prompt some questions directly related to their work. Students would also ask how the engineer's work would cure and diagnose diseases or be used to people.

Students in ASK and live chats were also often interested in the qualifications needed to become engineers and the engineers' varied backgrounds in this respect showed the different routes available to become an engineer. Students also asked many personal questions, for example about favourite music and films.



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lii trave ^{televisio} physics		a hos than	"Why is designing a hospital harder than normal buildings?"		"Has anyone ever commented against you for making a product and its use not being good?"		"If you are an industry biomedical engineer, how do yo think drug eluting devices will be revived in modified form?"	
"What n engineer specialty you deve during th year?"	ring v skills have eloped	say to days convi beco	at would you o kids these to try and ince them to me an neer?"		t would you achine fails?'		"What do you get o of engineering that you couldn't get fro any other kind of work?"	



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Examples of good engagement

The engineers were often able to give insights into their personal working styles and experience that was good advice for the students, as Jamie and Will did here:

"How do you get out of design ruts?" - Student

"If I'm ever stuck in a rut when designing something, I take a break, get some tea and then get a pencil and paper out and try and visualise what I want to do." – Will, engineer

"I find a good way to progress with design when you're stuck is to get others involved, often people see something differently!" – Jamie, engineer

Both Kristen and Sheun discussed being a woman in engineering with honesty and positivity:

"Do you believe that engineering can be for men/woman as it is not considered to be for women however I think that it should be thought equally?" – Student

"That's a great question! I definitely think engineering should be for both men and women equally. There has never been a time when me being a woman has stopped my doing my job. Sometimes people can be surprised that I am a woman, but they quickly realise that it makes no difference." – Kristen, engineer

Engineer winner: Will Scott-Jackson

Will's plans for the prize money: "I will use the money to invest in the equipment and software necessary to start and run my own Youtube Channel and I've already had ideas of what I'd like to do with it. I intend on running a Youtube channel with a similar format to the old science show run by Bill Nye the Science Guy; where he demonstrated scientific principles with items you could find around the house. I want to do the same but for engineering; teach new skills and knowledge in short videos"



Read Will's thank you message.

Student winner: Abi

For great engagement during the event, this student will receive a gift voucher and a certificate.

Feedback

We're still collecting feedback from teachers, students and engineers but here are a few of the comments made during the event...

"Do we have to finish?"– Leshi, student "So fun and different every time" – Sheun, engineer

"Surprisingly addictive" – Jamie, engineer



