

Caitlin McLean

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Edinburgh, Scotland

Professional Profile

I am an **engineering graduate (first class master's with Distinction)** seeking a dynamic and **purpose driven role where I can deliver innovative engineering solutions for my stakeholders**. I listen and I learn. I am passionate about using my skills in engineering technology to develop and optimise live products, with goal of helping people live healthier lives through impactful solutions. I have **excellent interpersonal, team leading and communication skills**, developed through my interests, both personal and professional. I am **eager to learn** and keen to immerse myself in an environment where I can develop my technical and professional expertise through a variety of projects.

Present Roles

1. Our Youth for Our Climate Grassroots Organisation.
November 2025-Present ; **Director of Operations**

My role is unpaid, but I have gained valuable experience in team leadership, communication, and presentation. I lead a team of 30+ individuals across five groups, coordinating efforts, overseeing day-to-day activities, and designing and delivering new operational systems. I manage these responsibilities by developing personalised systems, **while building strong intercultural relationships and collaborating with volunteers and external organisations. Through this, I have been able to positively influence team performance and drive effective, cohesive working practices.**

2. Royal Academy of Engineering
October 2025-Present ; **Active participant on Graduate Engineering Engagement Programme**

The Academy offers the opportunity to build and maintain a mentor relationship with an engineering professional and network with other young aspiring engineers from a variety of diverse backgrounds and cultures. Participants attend and contribute to skill and competency sessions and are encouraged to develop individual career progression plans, I have also been able to use the extensive and exclusive engineering resources provided by the Academy to continue my professional development as an engineer.

3. Free People.George Street, Edinburgh
January 2026-Present; **Sales Associate**

I developed **strong, personalised relationships with customers by understanding their individual needs through thoughtful and engaging conversation**. I enhanced the in-store experience by offering tailored styling advice and creating a welcoming, inspiring environment. In addition to delivering a high level of customer care, I supported daily store operations through stock management, visual merchandising, and **maintaining brand standards**. This experience deepened my passion for styling, creativity, and **I have developed a strong understanding of sales delivery, while maintaining a unique, customer-focused experience.**

Employment History

1. Optos
June 2025-August 2025; **Operations Intern;**

I was the successful candidate from a very competitive selection process operated by the Saltire Scholars Programme who recruit graduates from Scotland's universities to find the business leaders of tomorrow. Optos is a world leading manufacturer and supplier of ultra-widefield retinal imaging products based in Fife, Scotland. I was tasked with testing an internally developed tool to characterise its behaviour under different operating conditions. This led me to the identification of performance concerns and the development of a **targeted testing strategy to characterise issues in the tools design prior to deployment on the manufacturing line**. Through this process, I developed a strong understanding of optical systems and **applied this knowledge to evaluate performance in a clinical setting, diagnosing inefficiencies and proposing solutions that improved system effectiveness**. Throughout the internship, I authored professional technical reports and study summaries. At the conclusion of the placement I **communicated my findings in presentations to the management team, to the 100+ employees and independently to the Chief Operating Officer**.

2. Anthropologie

November 2025-January 2026; **Sales Team Member**

I worked as part of a small sales team, delivering excellent customer service to both fast fashion aficionados and more one-to-one care of high net-worth individuals. This has taught me how to have **clear technical communication, strict adherence to procedures, accuracy under time pressure and the importance of good teamwork on shop-floor projects**. I have successfully worked with many other employees of all ages and backgrounds, and **I've greatly enjoyed dealing with demanding customers from all over the globe**.

3. Edinburgh Leisure

November 2019-August 2020; **Lifeguard**

I worked as a qualified lifeguard, achieving the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ), which equipped me with essential lifesaving, first aid, and emergency response skills. I was responsible for **maintaining a safe and controlled pool environment, remaining vigilant at all times and responding quickly and effectively to any incidents**. I delivered clear guidance to pool users, upheld safety regulations, and ensured high standards of cleanliness and organisation. This role strengthened my ability to **stay calm under pressure, take responsibility, communicate instructions clearly and how to coordinate members effectively**.

Education

1. University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

September 2020- June 2025; **MEng Biomedical Engineering(Distinction)**

For my Master's Thesis - Optimise and Validate Cardiopulmonary Bypass Aortic Cannula placement through computational modelling and circuit design - **I collaborated with engineers at the University of Strathclyde and clinicians at the NHS National Golden Jubilee Hospital to understand surgical workflow and device placement challenges and translate clinician input into engineering modelling and testing strategies**. I conducted testing on a computational simulation to evaluate model performance and analyse virtual instrument and soft tissue mechanics. I contributed to **experimental validation of a computational model** using a bench-top mechanical circuit to verify model behaviour. I was privileged to attend and observe a four-heart-valve replacement surgery as part of my collaboration for the thesis.

For my Bachelors Dissertation - Developing an assessment to analyse gait symmetry recovery in chronic stroke survivors following an 8-week gamified locomotor rehabilitation program - I collected, organised, and analysed biomechanical experimental data using a custom MATLAB code to support rehabilitation strategy development. Alongside this, I gained hands-on clinical experience by working directly with patients and supporting rehabilitation sessions, assisting with data collection and contributing to a patient-focused environment. This experience strengthened my data analysis skills, attention to detail, and ability to work confidently and empathetically in a clinical setting.

Key Modules -Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering, Biosignal Process and Analysis, Biomedical Instrumentation, Medical Robotics and Project Management

Societies- Dance and Biomedical Engineering

2. Firrhill High School, Edinburgh

2013- 2020; **SQA Qualificationa**

Advanced Higher Grades - Maths(B) and Biology(C)

Higher Grades- Maths (A), English (A), Biology (A), Physics (A) and History (B)

Awards- Silver Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze Duke of Edinburgh, STASH Peer Support Award, Vice House Captain.

Interests

Hill Walking and Running

- Enjoy endurance challenges, regularly climbing Munro's and seeking my next challenge.
- Completed the Edinburgh Half Marathon (May 2025) raising over £500 for Edinburgh Sick Kids Hospital Charity
- Completed both my Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards which built discipline, resilience and problem solving skills.

Crocheting

- Enjoy a craft developed through independent learning and hands-on projects.
- Developing creativity, patience, and attention to detail.
- Completed my first wearable this year (2026)