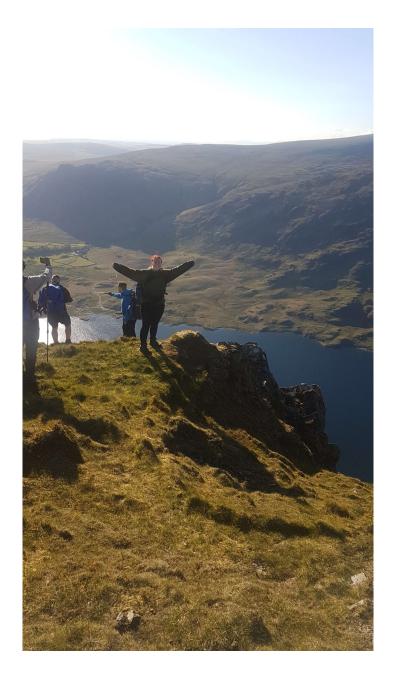# EMMA NOLAN

Job: Apprentice Software Engineer

Company: Thales UK

I work in Maritime Mission Systems under the Defence sector at Thales. I develop the HCI's (human computer interface) for SONAR (sound, navigation and ranging) systems – these are the systems used by ships and submarines in the UK to detect and locate other ships, or mines, in the sea.

Real Role Model

Passionate	Resilient	Driven

The skills I use most in my job... Working collaboratively

• Problem solving

• Logical thinking

• Leadership qualities

The most interesting thing I've worked on in my career so far... When I first joined Thales I worked in research and development. As part of this I got the opportunity to go on a Future-NEST (naval engineering science and technology) trip looking at improving the control room. Part of this was going a decommissioned submarine - HMS Courageous!

What inspired me into digital and tech... The world of digital and tech is so interesting because it's always changing and there are always new things to learn. I developed a massive passion for programming from around the age of 15 onwards and love that there are endless possibilities and new discoveries every day.

My educational background is...I studied Computer Science, Maths and Product Design at A-Level and used these to move into my current position as an apprentice. Part of my apprenticeship involves studying a BSc (hons) in Digital and Technology Solutions at Manchester Metropolitan University. My professional skills are always in development as an apprentice.

What advice I'd give to girls thinking about a career in digital and tech...A career in digital and tech is for ANYBODY! If you're worried that you aren't good enough or other people will judge you, don't be! There are many amazing women in this industry and you too can make a mark. If you're interested in the digital world, don't hold back.