



WOMEN
IN GREEN
SHIPPING

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“ MORE AND MORE WOMEN ARE JOINING THE INDUSTRY,
BUT THERE’S STILL A NOTICEABLE GAP. ”



How did you come to have a career in shipping?

I entered this sector unexpectedly, from a technical background, as I had a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering and a master's degree in cybersecurity. During my master's program, I realised the significant impact of cyber security in our daily lives, particularly in critical sectors such as transportation, energy, and water. When I learned about the opportunity to work at the Cyber-SHIP lab at the University of Plymouth, I hadn't considered the application of cyber security in the maritime and shipping sector before and found it very interesting. There was a learning curve initially, but the past few years have been a valuable opportunity to acquire knowledge and experience in this field.

What do you enjoy most about your role and why?

Every day presents a new challenge as a cyber security researcher. The maritime sector is unique, with operations, regulations, and equipment that differ from other sectors. Working in this dynamic shipping sector requires staying informed about the latest developments and emerging threats in both cyber space and maritime security. Currently working as a penetration testing researcher, I find it fun to learn about and test new attack paths and vulnerabilities in maritime devices and networks, and it's always interesting to be taken by surprise when things work differently than I'd expected.

What would you like to see change, or to see more of, to help bring more women into the industry?

More and more women are joining the industry, but there's still a noticeable gap. IMO's Women in Maritime programme, along with initiatives such as the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) and WiGS, are doing an excellent job of bringing women together and supporting them in contributing their skills to the sector. Networking and mentoring sessions provide a space for women to share their experiences and brainstorm solutions to common problems.

Hearing from other women about their different paths into the sector, their excitement, challenges and how they've overcome them can be incredibly motivating.

Do you have personal motto for life? What is this?

I first came across the Latin phrase "Esse quam videri" in Erin Morgenstern's book 'The Night Circus' when I was a teenager, and it has resonated with me ever since. This phrase translates to "To be, rather than to seem." It reminds me to be my true self and avoid pretending to be someone I am not.

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