

Elaine Walsh – biography

With a background in aerospace engineering, Elaine is a freelance soft skills development consultant and an expert in doctoral education and career management. For more than ten years, Elaine led the team responsible for postgraduate professional development at Imperial College London, supporting more than 6000 graduate students. During this time, the innovation and impact of her team's work were recognised by two *Times Higher* awards and resulted in numerous invitations to partner with internationally leading universities such as HKU, MIT, Tsinghua University and NUS and NTU of Singapore.

Elaine gained her first degree in Engineering Science from the University of Cambridge, UK and followed this with a master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, USA. She has worked as a professional engineer at leading aerospace companies in both the UK and the USA and is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer.

After working as an engineering academic for 7 years, Elaine moved to Imperial College London in 1998, taking a post as a careers consultant and later specialising in the soft skills development of doctoral researchers. Elaine is an active researcher with numerous publications in the field of doctoral education. Having recently embarked upon a freelance career, she delights in projects that combine some or all of her interests in doctoral education, career management, soft skills development and engineering.