

# My story

## Case study: Appo, robot engineer

Appolinaire designs and builds humanoid robots. He studies insect joints to design better knee joints for walking robots and prosthetic legs.



### How did you become a robot engineer?

It all started with Kinder Surprise eggs! The first time I got an egg, getting to construct the toy inside was much more exciting than the chocolate. I asked my dad “Who gets to make things for a job?” and he told me that’s what engineers do. Later, I saw a film called ‘AI’. It’s about a futuristic world where people try to make a machine with a mind so that it can have feelings like a human. The idea of artificial intelligence and getting to design and make things led me to engineering.

### What was your favourite subject at school?

At school I liked maths and DT – getting to make toys, little cars and things like that. At university I did a degree in mechanical engineering and focused on topics that would help me work in robotics: physics, different types of engineering (e.g. telecommunications, electronics, computer engineering) and biomimetics (studying and replicating nature).

### What is the best thing about your job?

I get to investigate how the natural world works, and apply the solutions to practical problems. I find the complexity of nature amazing – nothing is by chance in nature, it always serves a purpose. There is still so much we can learn from nature, and that can inspire us to engineer better solutions for the world.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love making and repairing things, and I also practice judo. It’s a martial art that requires discipline over your body and mind.

### Who is your role model and why?

My father. He taught me what makes a good person: know the difference between right and wrong, be fair with other people, and get satisfaction in a job well done. When I went to university he said “Go, live and be the best you can be!” He taught me we should always seek happiness in everything we do, be amazed by the world around us, and your only adversary is yourself. Challenge yourself, and remember that no one else can stop you from succeeding.

<http://robotsvsanimals.net>

