



Maryam MASOOD

Home Country
Pakistan

Degree
PhD in Engineering

Expertise
Sustainable Engineering Systems

Research Focus
Waste Management
in Developing Countries

Host University
University of Cambridge,
United Kingdom

Fellowship Awarded
2012

Maryam Masood was born and received all her education in the metropolitan city of Lahore, Pakistan. As a child, engineering—particularly mechanical engineering—fascinated her as it involves a scientific approach combined with artistic components.

Maryam attended the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore, where she gained a BSc (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering. She then worked at UET as a laboratory engineer and lecturer. After a year, UET awarded Maryam a Faculty Development Program scholarship, which supported her studies towards an MSc degree in Sustainable Energy Systems at Queen Mary College, University of London, United Kingdom. Her MSc project focused on the environmental and technical aspects of using renewable fuel, and examined the testing of bio-fuel in comparison to conventional diesel fuel. In 2010, she began her PhD studies at the University of Cambridge.

The overall aim of Maryam's PhD project is to investigate the solid waste management systems in developing countries and find effective solutions for their improvement. The primary focus is on the role of the informal waste sector which is an active but usually ignored sector in waste management systems of most developing countries. The research is based on case studies, surveys and interviews. As a result, a framework for possible integration of the informal waste sector with the formal sector is developed that is applicable in most developing countries. Such integration provides a low cost and sustainable solution.

After completion of her PhD, Maryam plans to return to UET as an Assistant Professor. She will also be part of the Energy Research Centre at UET, which is performing research into sustainable energy resources in partnership with groups in the United Kingdom and other European countries. The energy does not have any collaboration as yet but only the students from Pakistan who are doing their research in European countries and in the United Kingdom will be back in Pakistan soon to join the centre.