



**1 What is your area of speciality at the SANSA?**

I'm a Satellite Operations Technician.

**2 What criteria did you have to meet to get your position at the SANSA?**

I obtained the minimum required qualification and then worked as an intern to gain work experience and knowledge in microwave frequency technology. Microwave frequencies provide for the transmission of all of your important data because they can penetrate haze, rain, snow, clouds and smoke, these waves are good for viewing the Earth from space. During my time as an intern I had to work hard and made sure to get involved in numerous projects in line with my duties. It paid off and I was later appointed on a permanent basis.

**3 What tertiary qualification does your job require?**

A National Diploma in Electrical Engineering or relevant experience of Radio Frequency, satellite technology, microwave and telecommunications principles and applications.

**4 What important school subjects are required for your qualification?**

Math and Science

**5 What was the biggest adjustment you had to make when moving from school to work?**

The Space Operations room runs 24hrs every day, so working night shift is one of my job requirements. I had to change my sleeping patterns and that was really hard for me.

**6 What is the biggest myth about your field of work?**

Engineering is viewed mostly as a "Male dominated industry"

**7 What is the truth around the above myth?**

The number of women enrolling in Engineering programmes is increasing dramatically every year. Providing encouragement and opportunity for women in Science and Engineering is one of the most powerful ways of harnessing the scarce skills needed to develop our country.

**8 What do you have to do in order to stand out in your field of work?**

You have to be enthusiastic and self-driven. You should try to market your skills and let your personality as well as your ability to work hard shine through.

**9 What does a person starting out in your field have to do to climb the corporate ladder?**

It is not only important to recognize where your weaknesses lie, but it is critical to actively work towards improving your weaknesses, by asking for help or advice. By having a good track record and varied skills you will be able to attract more job opportunities within or beyond your field of study.

**10 How do you keep abreast of developments of your profession?**

Technology evolves everyday with new advanced research and developments. I try to gain as much knowledge as I can and stay updated on new developments in the field of Radio

Frequency and satellite communication technology. Different types of satellites are being launched almost every week and I have to stay informed of these developments and the new knowledge they bring to the industry and our community as a whole.



## SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN AT SANSA

**1 What is your area of speciality at the SANSA?**

Being new to SANSA, I don't have a speciality yet. My current field of work is in geomagnetism.

**2 What criteria did you have to meet to get your position at SANSA?**

I had to be willing to travel to remote areas, have good experience in Electronics and the ability to manage myself.

**3 What tertiary qualification does your job require?**

A National Diploma in Electrical Engineering and a positive attitude.

**4 What important school subjects are required for your qualification?**

Mathematics, Physical Sciences and a little Geography.

**5 What was the biggest adjustment you had to make when moving from school to work?**

I think the biggest adjustment for me was how to act professional in the work place. You should know when to be serious and when it's ok to crack a joke.

**6 What is the biggest myth about your field of work?**

That it doesn't exist! Many people are not aware that space science and technology is at the cutting edge in South Africa and that we have a Space Agency. I always have a lot of explaining to do every time somebody asks what I do for a living.

**7 What is the truth around the above myth?**

Space science and technology is a growing product of South Africa and it is getting bigger by the day.

**8 What do you have to do in order to stand out in**

**your field of work?**

The best way to stand out in any field of work is to do it right and keep on trying to improve yourself to keep up with new trends.

**9 What does a person starting out in your field have to do to climb the corporate ladder?**

Well, I would suggest you get as much experience as possible. The corporate ladder will always be missing a few steps so it's up to you to go out there and find those steps you need to succeed.

**10 How do you keep abreast of developments of your profession?**

Try your best to say yes to as many opportunities that come your way and always be willing to help your colleagues especially when it means stepping outside your comfort zone. The more you help and the more you offer to do, the more you will learn, and that's how you stay in tune. ■