

SENIOR LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL

Laura Rodriguez Ariza

Senior Learning & Development Professional

My qualifications are

- BArch (Bachelor in Architecture)
- MSc (Masters in Structural Engineering)
- CEng (Chartered Engineer with the IStructE)

Skills needed in my role



- Communication
- Structured thinking
- Collaboration
- Problem solving

About me

I'm Laura, and I've worked in Learning and Development (L&D) since 2023 after transitioning as a Senior Structural Engineer, bringing a strong technical background and a passion for developing people and capability across Curtins. Outside work, I enjoy time with my husband and children, teaching Barre, staying active, and visiting my family in Seville.

What are your day-to-day responsibilities at work?

I design, coordinate and deliver L&D activities that support individual growth and strengthen business capability, working with technical teams, managers and senior stakeholders to identify development needs and shape effective, aligned solutions.

My role spans early-career programmes, professional qualifications, technical training and knowledge-sharing initiatives, which I manage end-to-end. Drawing on my engineering background, I create practical, relevant learning experiences that balance technical excellence with personal and professional development, while building strong relationships across the business and exploring new ways to encourage engagement with learning at work.

What subjects did you study at GCSE that helped you with your career?

For my GCSEs and A-levels, I studied Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Design & Technology, English, Spanish and French, which helped me build strong analytical, problem-solving and communication skills.

Tell us about your career path?

I completed a bachelor's degree in architecture and engineering, began my career as a graduate engineer, later earned a master's in Structural Engineering, and ultimately became a Chartered Engineer with the Institution of Structural Engineers. A few years later, I transitioned into central services as an L&D Practitioner and progressed to Senior L&D Professional, drawing on my technical background to design effective learning solutions. I'm now completing a Level 3 Apprenticeship in People Practice to strengthen my knowledge, and confidence as I continue to grow within the Learning and Development field.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I most enjoy supporting people as they grow in the direction that matters most to them. Whether they're progressing into senior roles, achieving chartership or developing new skills, it's incredibly rewarding to be part of that journey. Seeing the confidence and sense of achievement people gain when they reach these milestones gives me a strong sense of purpose.

What is the best project you have worked on?

One of the most rewarding projects I'm working on is developing technical training programmes for our technical staff, focused on upskilling early-career professionals and helping them build confidence and competence as they progress. Seeing participants grow while knowing it supports both individual development and business needs makes this work especially meaningful to me.

