MONIKA SUD:

For Monika Sud, discovering the Whitworth Scholarship brought a sense of belonging.

A student at the time, she knew of only one other person in her year that had taken the apprenticeship route into university.

“I was amazed that there was a scholarship out there for people who had taken a different path,” she says. “It was a great way to join something, where I would find others like me.”

At university, Sud discovered she had a different set of skills to her peers, who had travelled along academic channels. She excelled at hands-on tasks and project management.

In 2005, Sud left England to live in Australia, where she is now a senior associate in a management consulting firm, which handles giant infrastructure projects.

She says the Whitworth Scholarship helped her build her career. It helped fund her studies and opened up a whole new network.

“I met engineers from across all levels of the industry,” she says.

For Sud, some of the great global challenges for engineers include climate change and population growth, which puts strain on food and water supplies. In her line of work, engineers are trying to find ways to integrate autonomous vehicles into the available infrastructure.

To find solutions to these problems requires different and creative thinking. Sud says she is pleased to see engineering opening up and becoming more diverse.

“I see more females entering engineering, which is great,” she says. “There’s lots more diversity. Here in Australia, we’ve got all different races, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, coming into the career, which has been fabulous to see.”

Sud may find herself 10 000 miles away from where she studied and received her Whitworth medal, but she says she is immensely proud to carry the Whitworth name with her, wherever she goes.

“My message (to those considering the scholarship) is: it’s definitely worth applying. It’s a prestigious award, if you’re successful,” she says. “It has really lifted my career… and I am proud to have the words ‘Whitworth Scholar’ on my business card.”