

Female Driver Case Study – Paige Lunn



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“There’s a lot of training involved in becoming a driver – you don’t just get in the driver’s seat on day one,” says Paige Lunn, one of GTR’s newly qualified female train drivers.

“My initial application was in January 2017 and I started driving with an instructor in July 2019. There’s been a few delays and changes to training lately because of the pandemic but I’m pleased to say that as of August this year I am officially a qualified train driver for Southern!

“Before I joined the railway I mainly worked in retail; at the time of my application I was actually working at Madame Tussauds which was fun, but I needed something different. I’d seen various campaigns calling on women to sign up and become train drivers, so I thought – why not! My dad was a driver and my grandad was also in the industry, so the railway is in my blood.”

Paige, 29, worked for London Underground for a short while, which helped her take the first steps in railway – but driving was the ultimate goal.

“For me, I quite like the fact that I’m my own boss. Yes, I have a manager and a team to check in with but most of the time you are managing yourself. I have a responsibility every day to get people from A to B and in that respect, I like that I’m making a difference.

“This will be the first winter where I’ll be driving completely on my own. It’s a bit scary as there’s a lot more to take into consideration – especially wet leaves which are a nightmare for drivers! Being up front in the driver’s cab is a real privilege. Some mornings are very special, when it’s a bit misty and the world seems a little bit more magical. Or when you get to witness a stunning sunrise – it makes you stop and appreciate nature.

“I was in my mid-twenties when I applied to be a driver. It’s something you can go into at any point in your life and I’d recommend it to anyone, it’s a fantastic industry to be a part of. I haven’t been treated any differently just because I’m a woman – I was the only female in my training class but that didn’t bother me. I’d love more women to join us, so what are you waiting for?”