Career profile

Cindy

Name:
Cindy

Job title:
Science Engagement Officer (Schools)

What do I do:
I work with schools across the UK to encourage students to learn more about science and science careers. Our team aim to make science accessible to all.

What do I enjoy most about my job?
Meeting new people all over the country or world sometimes. Being able to work with students and to give them the best experience of science before they move on to careers.

My career highlights

- Born in South Africa
- GCSEs: Graphics Design, Sociology, Drama
- Moved to the UK
- A Levels: Product Design, Film Studies, ICT, Art, Photography
- College: BTEC Extended Diploma in Animal Management
- University: Bsc (HONS) degree in Zoology
- Advanced Research Assistant working on Malaria
- Science Engagement Officer (Schools)

What was my favourite subject at school?
Drama at GCSEs as this helped me with speaking in front of people. Oceanography and marine biology at university as this has always been where my passions lie, with the sea.
Skills I use in my job:

- **Creativity**
  Designing new exciting activities for students

- **Teamwork**
  Working with colleagues to make and deliver resources

- **Communication**
  Meeting new people and teaching about genomics to a variety of audiences

- **Organisation**
  Making sure I am organised for where I am going to be, such as at a school, and have everything I need

My top tips for students wanting a career in genomics:
- Ask Questions, be curious.
- Try something new and try different things.
- Have a great work ethic. No matter what you are doing, make sure you are putting effort in and try to get the most out of it, regardless if you continue on that path. You will always develop transferable skills.

What hobbies do I have?
I love going on adventures with my tiny jack russel cross. Some of those adventures include paddleboarding, exploring somewhere new, hiking or just walking. I also love latin dancing, gardening and gaming.

For more information on careers in genomics, email: engage@wellcomeconnectingscience.org
Name: Em

Job title: Science Engagement Manager (Schools)

What do I do:
I create opportunities for scientists and educational groups to share and learn from each other.

My career highlights

- GCSEs: Triple Science, Textiles and History
- University: 4-year BSc in Cell Biology
- Internship: Science Magazine Writing
- University: MSc Science Communication and Public Engagement
- Placement and volunteering roles
- Science Learning Officer at a Science Centre
- Science Engagement Manager (Schools)

What was my favourite subject at school?
I was always fascinated by biology – especially how genetic information that is so tiny has such important effects in the body. But I also enjoyed English and Art.

What does a typical week look like in my role?
It depends on the time of the year, but a mix of hosting school visits on Campus, working with scientists, developing activities and working on collaborative projects.
Skills I use in my job:

- **Creativity**
  I use creativity skills to come up with activities for students and young people.

- **Teamwork**
  I use teamwork skills to help support and collaborate with my teammates.

- **Communication**
  A lot of my work involves understanding the science that happens on Campus, and helping scientists communicate their work.

- **Organisation**
  I often run a lot of projects at one time so being organised is key to keeping on top of everything.

My top tips for students wanting a career in genomics:

- Don’t worry about specific degree names, look more at the modules involved in a degree.
- Knowing what you don’t want to do is just as important as knowing what you do want to do.

What hobbies do I have?
I am happiest when outdoors! In particular, I love hiking in the Scottish Highlands with my wife.

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**Name:**
Jack Monaghan

**Job title:**
Science Engagement Manager (Public and Communities)

**What do I do:**
I speak with people about DNA, and help scientists to do the same. This might be big events at science festivals, conversations on campus, or work with community groups.

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**What do I enjoy most about my job?**
Having exciting conversations with people about the things we care about and the future. Genomics is going to change the world, it’s nourishing to hear people’s perspectives.

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**What was my favourite subject at school?**
I always felt comfortable in maths, I liked that there was a process and an answer. But I had most fun in drama, and made life-long friends doing it both in school and out.
Skills I use in my job:

**Creativity**
All the smiles in my job come when we surprise each other with the new and the original

**Teamwork**
I couldn't do any of my work without the skills and knowledge of other people

**Communication**
Everything I do is sharing information, ideas and perspectives

**Listening**
Good engagement is done by listening to communities and our scientists to understand what interests or motivates them

My top tips for students wanting a career in genomics:
There are lots and lots of different kinds of careers. Don’t limit your horizons to the jobs you see in textbooks. Search broader until you see someone doing something you get excited by. Find out the path they walked to get there. And invest time looking for your own way.

What hobbies do I have?
I have a dog that I love walking – she’s a very fast runner too and a total scamp. And I love cooking, new dishes especially.

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Name: Sam

Job title: Science Engagement Officer (Public and Communities)

What do I do: I work with communities across the UK, sharing and discussing innovative research with the public through various events and activities.

What do I enjoy most about my job? I love talking with new people and sharing the wonders of science. It’s great to be able to be in a position where we aim to make science accessible and have open discussions around science and genomics.

What was my favourite subject at school? I would say Geology. It was something I had never studied before and so was fascinating learning new things. It was very broad, with bits of biology, chemistry and physics; it had a bit of everything.
Skills I use in my job:

- **Listening**
  Facilitating discussions about genomics and listening to lots different perspectives

- **Teamwork**
  Working as part of a team to deliver fun and engaging events and activities for our various audiences

- **Problem solving**
  No day is ever the same and so being able to think of solutions quickly and adapt is always important

- **Communication**
  Speaking to lots of different audiences about genomics

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My top tips for students wanting a career in genomics:

- Don’t worry if you don’t know everything now, just be interested to keep learning
- Try new things and challenge yourself! It might be daunting at first, but you will learn many new skills and find out things you never knew you liked
- Reach out to people in the careers you want to explore, for tips and advice

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What hobbies do I have?
I play hockey for my local team, it’s really good fun playing matches every weekend and being a part of a team. I also like gardening but I haven’t quite managed to keep everything alive yet!

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