

NI Maths Role Models

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What does your job entail?

As a Scientific Writer, I'm tasked with researching, writing, and editing a variety of scientific content. This includes research papers, presentation posters, website content, scientific articles, and lots more. In short, I take the data that my co-workers have collected and present it in a format that makes it easy for the target audience to understand.

How did you get into this line of work?

After finishing my university studies in chemistry, I knew I wanted to remain involved in science but had grown fed up with lab work. I wasn't even aware that 'Scientific Writing' was a career up until about a year ago. I reached out to a few Scientific Writers online and they were kind enough to tell me about their day-to-day jobs, which seemed super interesting. I always loved writing about science during my studies, so pursuing a career in scientific writing was a no-brainer at this point! After a few months of job hunting, I eventually got lucky and landed my dream job at B-Secur.

Outline your career to date?

This is my first 'real' job. After my A-levels, I completed an integrated master's in chemistry at Queen's University Belfast, then jumped straight into a PhD in supramolecular chemistry at the University of Southampton. After finishing up my PhD, I moved back to Belfast and started working for B-Secur. I've only been here for 3 months, but it's been really enjoyable so far.

How do you use maths in your role today?

Math is a vital part of my everyday job. To write about the research we do, I have to analyse, identify trends, and draw conclusions from large amounts of scientific data. This would be impossible without a solid understanding of maths and statistics. A lot of the time, different types of data require different mathematical approaches to effectively analyse them, so I'm still learning new math every day!

Did you enjoy maths in school?

I really enjoyed maths at school but never excelled at it. I managed to scrape a B in my GCSE maths. Although I was glad to have passed, I was also sad as this meant I couldn't take on maths (or physics!) as an A-level subject. Although I haven't studied maths as a subject in over 10 years, it is at the core of science, and I use it every day. I guess I'm lucky that I still enjoy using it! and an important part of my job. I guess I'm lucky that I still enjoy maths I still really enjoy maths and it's an important part of my job.