

# Women into STEM

Jaqueline Didcock

**Job Role: Trainee Healthcare Scientist (Genomics)**

I work at the Centre for Life. My role involves analysing and interpreting genetic information such as DNA and Chromosomes.

**Don't limit yourself in terms of where you would work. Be prepared to take a leap and move for the career you want.**

**If you really want something, don't give up. I had my applications knocked back for the Scientist Training Programme and it took me 3 attempts to finally get on. I thought about giving up and trying a different career path but I persevered because deep down I knew it was what I really wanted to do.**

## Skills Required:

To qualify for the Training Programme, you must have a 2:1 or above in a degree relevant to the specialism but if you don't they will accept a higher education qualification (such as a Master's or PHD). The programme is very highly competitive. You have to be prepared to move away as you are not guaranteed to get the Trust of your choice.

## How did you get to where you are now?

It was during A levels that I discovered my passion for biology and in particular, genetics, which I went on to study at the University of Glasgow. I knew by this point that I wanted to go into diagnostic work (like in the NHS laboratories).

I decided to further my education by doing an MSc in Medical Genetics then shortly after I graduated, I was offered a job as a Genetic Technologist (GT) at Sheffield Children's Hospital so I moved away from my family and friends to pursue my career.

I knew I wanted to be a Clinical Scientist but I didn't feel that I had enough experience to get on to the highly competitive programme. It was only after working as a GT for almost 2 years that I was finally accepted.

