

Women *into* STEM

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Job Role: Business Analyst

Keep yourself open to different roles, and don't let a lack of technical expertise put you off a role you like the look of – if you think you have the natural disposition for it, you can gain the knowledge through training.

Speaking of training, take every opportunity given to you to attend training, external talks and networking events for the industry you're looking at going into – you'll learn a lot, and meet people who'll be happy to give you the benefit of their experience!

Skills Required:

Being a good communicator is key to being a good Business Analyst. It's essential to be able to build strong and trusting relationships. Being able to say you don't understand something, especially if you aren't particularly technically-minded, is important – you'll be working on systems and processes you may have no previous experience of, and need to be able to understand enough about them to write valuable requirements.

How did you get to where you are now?

I built up my experience and knowledge over 10 years with the company, and when I saw the Business Analyst role advertised, I felt the requirements fit my skill set so had a conversation with the recruiting manager and the rest is history!

I originally joined Asda as an Intranet Publisher due to my web design background. I worked my way up to managing the Intranet team, and then moved to Supply as I wanted more Retail experience. In all my roles, I was able to develop the listening skills I would later use as a Business Analyst.

Looking to the future:

I'm keeping an open mind about my next role. Right now, I'm thinking Product Manager, which feels like a natural progression to Business Analyst.

I'm really passionate about encouraging more young people, and especially women, into technology, so I'd like to do more work around that.

