

Careers Chat



ABOUT JESSICA BOLAND

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MY JOURNEY INTO SCIENCE

I loved a variety of subjects at school like classics, history and Latin, but I really loved Maths and problem-solving so physics was my favourite. I am hard of hearing and wear hearing aids. This was a challenge for me in terms of how to adapt at school and at university when chasing my STEM career aspirations. I have always had to be quite brave to ask for change and request for things to be done in a slightly different way so that I can be included.

MY JOB

No two days in my job are the same and I love that. One day I can be in my lab working with lasers (aligning my optics), the next day I could be giving a talk at a conference or teaching the physics courses at university. In quantum, I get to work with so many different researchers and different STEM professionals that have come from different backgrounds. I'm a physicist but I work with electrical engineers, chemists and biologists. I also get to work with business people from the technology industry. As the science is constantly changing and evolving I am always learning new things. I have to think about sustainability in my job. Sometimes, there are materials that work really well in our devices, but are poisonous or very rare so are not something we can really use. I look at ways that we can engineer materials so that they are more sustainable and safer for the planet but still have the same useful properties. I have to consider what resources are readily available and which ones are running out.

MY HOBBIES

Growing up, I wanted to be a professional ballerina and I danced with the English Youth Ballet. Unfortunately, I didn't grow tall enough to do it professionally, but I still do ballet lessons now. I love singing and dancing and enjoy being part of AmDram plays and portraying different characters. I also enjoy playing the piano.

A QUESTION I WANT TO ASK

When will I get contact lenses that give me live subtitles and also can read people's minds and tell me what they're thinking?