

> Case Study

Pam Harrison

STEM WORKS

Cogent skills
for science industries



Profile:

Age: 33

Location: Macclesfield

Company: AstraZeneca

Job: Senior Analytical Scientist

My job – what I do

I test medicines to see how long they are safe to use, and I use a robot to help with this testing. We store the medicine at high temperature and humidity and then test it to see how much it has changed. We look for any changes, as these could be potentially dangerous or effect how the medicine works in the body.

My qualifications

Master in Chemistry at University of York.
A levels in Chemistry, Maths and IT. AS levels in Art, Graphics and Biology.

How I got into science

1 year **industrial placement** at a **pharmaceutical** company as part of my degree.

What do I do on a typical day

9.30 am – log onto computer, check emails, respond to questions and plan my day.

11 am – check on any **analysis** from previous day, review data and make sure robot is performing as it should.

12 pm – lunch

1 – 3 pm – meetings - with projects to discuss data or with team to plan work/ discuss general activities such as safety, **compliance** etc.

3 – 6 pm – monitor the robot if it's running, do any data processing and interpretation, write up of experiments.

BUT every day is different – different projects, different problems, different people to work with.

Best 3 things about my job

1. Feel like I'm making a difference to patients' lives. The medicines we work on are the medicines of the future and already being shown to make people better in **clinical trials**.
2. Every day is different, there's always a different problem to solve or different project that needs information about their medicine.
3. I enjoy science. I am using my degree and my skills in my day to day job.

The biggest science inspiration

My cousin! She was doing a chemistry **PhD** when I was at school and showed me around her lab - I was fascinated!

In the future

Become an expert in my field and carry on working on medicines and see them released onto the market for patients worldwide.

Why should young people consider a career in science?

Can use your skills to make a real difference to the world. Every day you learn something new that nobody else has discovered yet.

Jargon Buster

Industrial Placement - Is a paid job that's related to the degree course someone is studying. It can also be called 'sandwich' as it sandwiched between the end of the second year and the last year at university. Some companies will also call the placement an 'internship'.

Pharmaceuticals - Is the term used to describe the industry or parts of the industry which discovers, develops, evaluates, registers, monitors and markets medicines for the benefit of patients and the health of the community.

Analysis - An area of chemistry that uses equipment and methods to separate, identify, and quantify material – such as the active drug or the formulated medicine (e.g. tablets).

Data - Facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis.

Compliance - Compliance means sticking to a rule, such as a specification, policy, standard or law.

Clinical Trials - Clinical trials are experiments and observations involving people. They explore whether a medical treatment, or equipment, is safe and effective to use.

PhD - PhD stands for 'Doctor of Philosophy', also called a 'doctorate'. It is the highest level of degree that a student can achieve. Can use your skills to make a real difference to the world. Every day you learn something new that nobody else has discovered yet.



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