

# A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



**Dr Laura Glendinning**  
**Microbiologist**

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**Hi there! I am Dr Laura Glendinning – A microbiologist**



## **Where do I work?**

I work at the University of Edinburgh where I study the bacteria that live inside the guts of chickens and other farm animals.

## **What did I like doing when I was at school?**

I really enjoyed science at school, but also other subjects such as English and history. My love of English really helped me as a scientist because you need a lot of creativity.

## **What do I like doing in my spare time?**

I really like playing games: board games, card games, computer games, role-playing games. You name it, I'll play it!

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## What do I do as a microbiologist?



I work with chickens, finding out what kind of bacteria (a kind of microbe) live inside their guts. I spend some of my time with the chickens and a lot of my time in a lab. I also use a computer to work out whether the bacteria are making the chicken healthy or unhealthy.

## How does what I do make the world a better place?

By finding out which bacteria make chickens healthier, I can work out how to keep them happy and stop them getting sick. By understanding microbes, microbiologists aim to solve a range of problems affecting our health, the environment, the climate and food and agriculture.

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## What I like about my job

I really like how varied my job is! One day I might be standing in the middle of a chicken farm, the next day I might be flying across the world to chat about my work with other scientists.



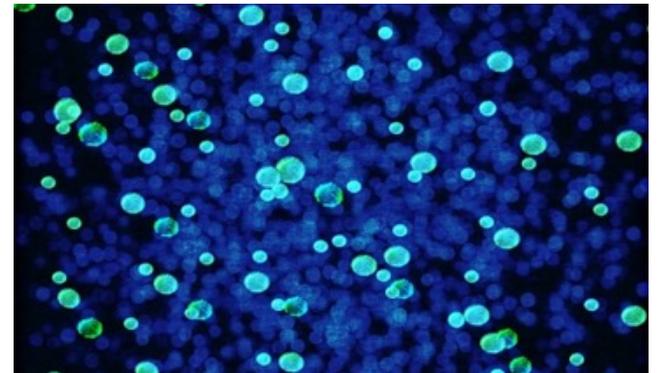
## Challenges I have faced

I grew up on a council estate in the North East of England, where most of the people I knew had not gone to university. I also had to work and look after other people when I was a teenager, so I sometimes struggled to stay on top of my school work.

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**If you want to be a microbiologist, you need:**

- ✱ to be **interested in living things** that are so small we can't see them without a microscope
- ✱ **a sense of adventure!** You will often have to travel to talk about your work with other scientists
- ✱ **a good imagination** because the things you are studying are so small, it can be difficult to picture the big effect they have on other living things
- ✱ **to not be afraid** of admitting when you don't know something



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## Discussion time

- ✳ Would you like to be a microbiologist like Dr Laura Glendinning?

**Why? Why not?**



- ✳ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a microbiologist?
- ✳ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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Laura Glendinning is a STEM Ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

## Free supporting resources for microbiology

[Science at Work](#) – see ‘Meet two doctors’, a chance to meet a viral immunologist and a hospital doctor.

[I bet you didn't know...](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. These articles explain more about microbes:

- Catching flu might depend on the type of place in which you live
- Dragons could save us from bad bacteria
- Bacteria get viral infections as well

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