

# A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



**Dr Grace Roberts**  
**Virologist**

# A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

**Hi there! I am Dr Grace Roberts - a virologist**



## **Where do I work?**

I work in a laboratory at Queen's University Belfast where I research viruses and how they might cause asthma.

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

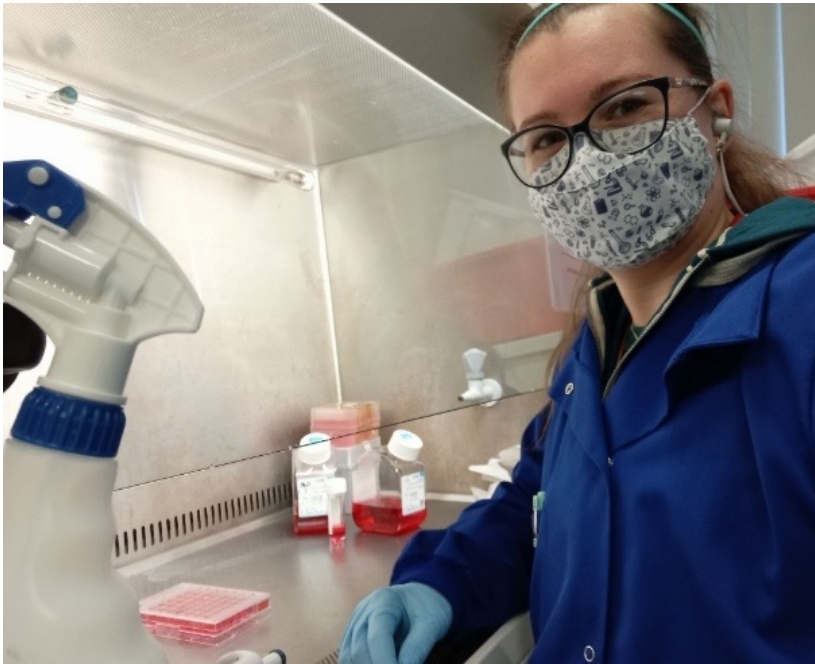
I liked most subjects at school, especially maths, music, history, and science. Because I liked everything it was hard to choose what to do!

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

I play the guitar and ukele. I also do a lot of running. I am part of a running club and do lots of races – I've done triathlons too!

# A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

## What do I do as a virologist?



Some scientists think that virus infections can affect lung development and cause things like asthma – we are trying to find out whether this is true. I use lung cells donated by children and develop them into mini-lungs in the lab. I then infect these cells with viruses and see how they respond differently.

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

If we are able to predict who will develop lung conditions like asthma, we can develop treatments to prevent it from happening.

# A SCIENTIST just like me

## What I like about my job

As a scientist, every experiment we do, is one that no one has done before, so everything we find out is brand new! I really like working in biology-based, medical research as I feel it will have a direct impact on people's lives. I also love working with microscopes!

## Challenges I have faced

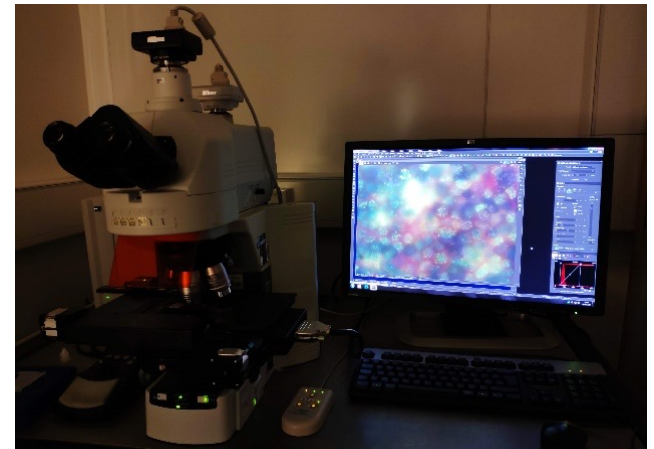
I grew up in a working class family and my school didn't give me much information about jobs or university. I had to find out so much for myself! I'd never heard of virology until I visited a university when I was seventeen.



# A SCIENTIST just like me

## If you want to be a virologist, you need:

- ✳️ to be interested in **biology, chemistry** or **medicine**
- ✳️ **to be creative** – designing experiments often requires thinking outside the box!
- ✳️ **to be willing to keep learning** as science constantly progresses and new techniques are developed.
- ✳️ to **work with others** –biologists often work as parts of bigger teams e.g. other scientists, doctors and nurses, and technicians.

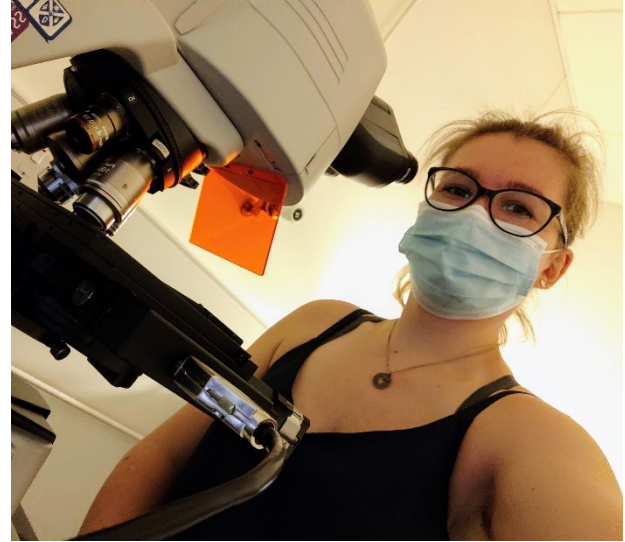


# A SCIENTIST just like me

## Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a virologist like Dr Grace Roberts?

**Why? Why not?**



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

# A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

## Free supporting resources for virology

**I bet you didn't know...** articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations:

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

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

