

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Dr Amy Pickering
Microbiologist

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Hi there! I am Dr Amy Pickering – A microbiologist



Where do I work?

I work in a research lab at the Roslin Institute, at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. The Roslin Institute is based in the countryside on the Veterinary School Campus.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I loved Biology at school and have always been fascinated by how small things, even microscopic bacteria, can be so complex. That is the main reason I work with bacteria.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love being outside, walking my dog, hiking in the Scottish mountains, running, cycling, snowboarding or just enjoying time in the garden.

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What do I do as a microbiologist?



I work with a bacteria that can cause infections in humans and a wide range of animals. My research is investigating how the bacteria is able to cause a disease in cows and can affect the cow's milk production.

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

By understanding how the bacteria are able to produce infections in cows, we hope to identify new ways to treat the infection or to prevent it happening in the first place. This will ensure that the cows which give us milk can stay healthy.

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What I like about my job

I really enjoy the research that I perform day-to-day in the research laboratory. Being able to design experiments that answer new questions and carry out experiments to discover something new give me a real buzz.



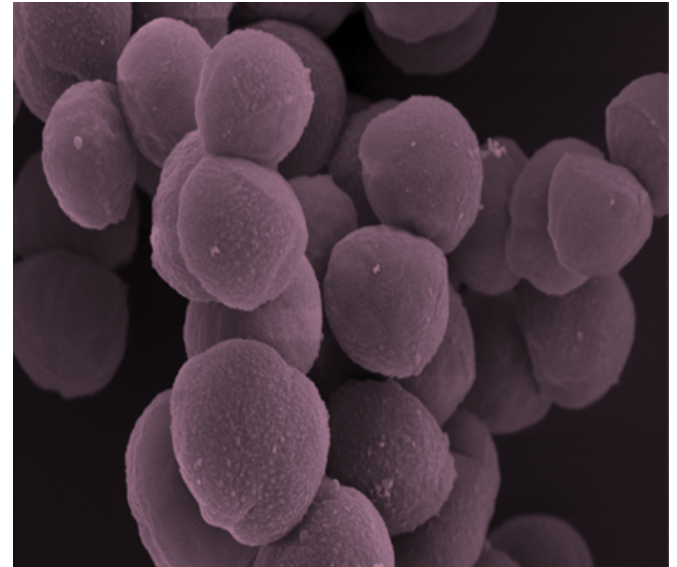
Challenges I have faced

Sometimes working in science can be quite demanding and so it can be a challenge to switch off from work. But a healthy work-life balance is really important, so I do find time to do the things I enjoy outside of work.

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If you want to be a microbiologist, you need:

- ✱ an **interest** in how infections develop and spread
- ✱ to **pay attention to detail** as experiments require accuracy if they are going to be performed well
- ✱ **to be creative** and to ask the right research questions
- ✱ to be good at **solving problems** so you can work out what is going on in your experiments that give you an unexpected answer



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a microbiologist like Dr Amy Pickering?

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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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 activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. These articles explain more about microbes:

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

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