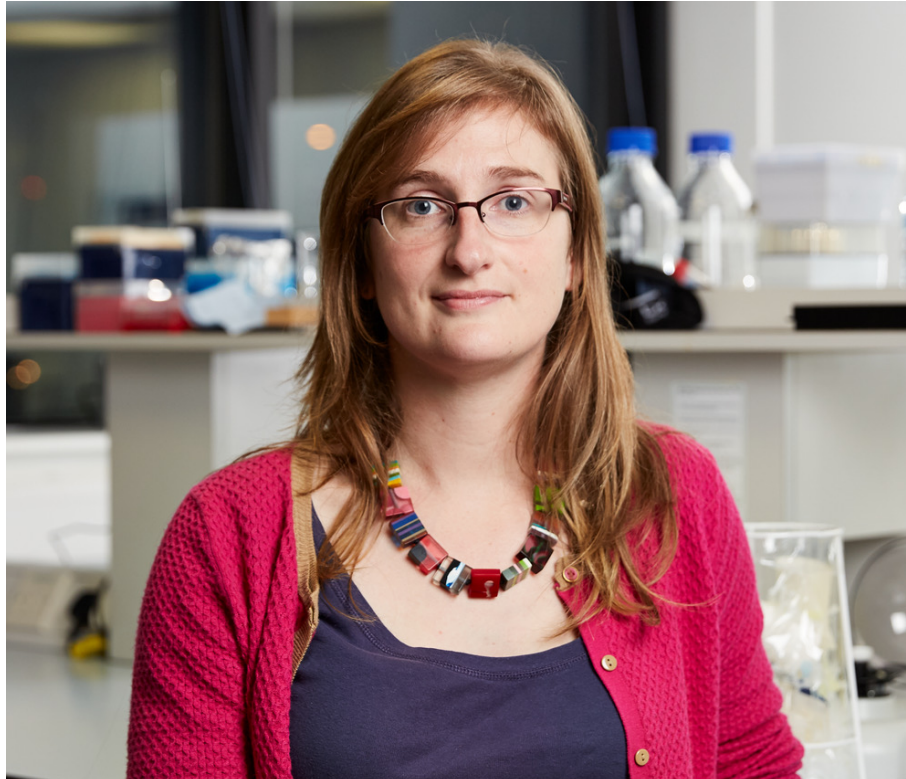


A SCIENTIST just like me



Dr Robyn Grant
Sensory Biologist

A SCIENTIST just like me

Hi there! I am Dr Robyn Grant – a sensory biologist



Where do I work?

I work at a university – Manchester Metropolitan University.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

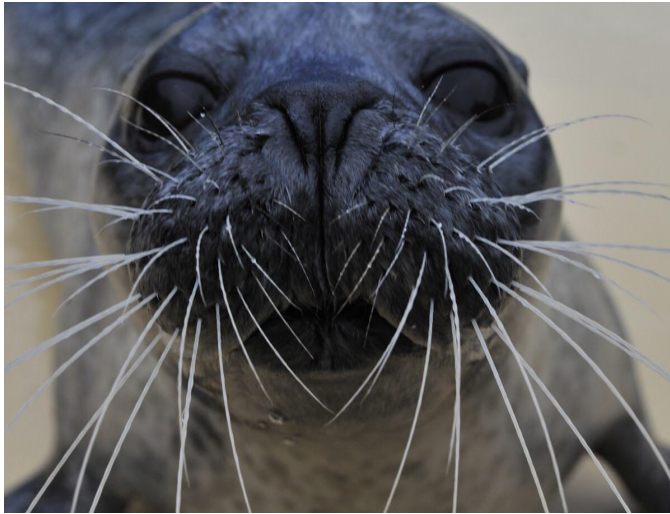
I always loved learning - pretty much about everything! I also liked to be really busy and active, doing lots of sports and dancing.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I really love to cycle, especially mountain biking. I like doing things that scare me a little – like snowboarding and skateboarding.

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What do I do a sensory biologist?



In my research I try to understand more about animals - especially how they move and sense - by looking at their anatomy (what's inside their bodies) as well as their behaviour (what they do). I also teach students at university about what I have found out in my research.

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

Understanding more about animals will help us to better care for them, both in captive environments (such as in zoos) and in their wild habitats. Telling people about my work inspires them to learn more about research and science and to think more about animals too.

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What I like about my job

I love to discover new things that no one ever knew before! I like that my job is super varied, so one day I am out and about in museums, zoos and working with animals, and then another day I might be sitting at my desk writing, or working in the lab.



Challenges I have faced

It is competitive to work in research and with animals, so I have had a lot of knock-backs and rejections for jobs and research ideas. You just have to be really strong and believe in yourself and what you are doing, and learn from these experiences to adjust your ideas.

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If you want to be a sensory biologist, you need:

- ★ to love learning**
- ★ to be curious and ask questions**
- ★ to enjoy being busy** and doing lots of different things
- ★ to be really interested in lots of different subjects,** not just animals – I have to do lots of writing, maths, building stuff and using complicated technologies



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a sensory biologist like Dr Robyn Grant?

Why? Why not?

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



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Free supporting resources for biology

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. See:

- Why & how scientists are measuring mammals' whiskers— this article was inspired by Robyn Grant's research at Manchester Metropolitan University
- Whale song is changing
- Some mammals have unusual backbones
- Evolution of life in cities

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

