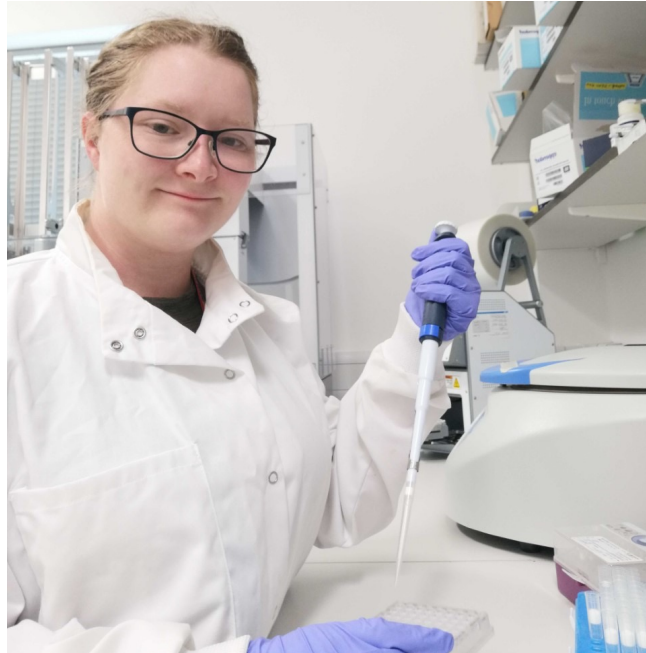


A SCIENTIST just like me



Laura Benson

Research Assistant in Epigenetics

A SCIENTIST just like me

**Hi there! I am Lauren Benson –
a research assistant in epigenetics**

Where do I work?

I work at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge. I get to work within a research lab.



What did I like doing when I was at school?

I have always loved Science! Ever since primary school, I wanted to help discover new things to improve peoples lives. I am an identical twin so genetics have always been interesting to me.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love reading, listening to audiobooks and baking. I enjoy spending social time with my friends and family, hiking and playing board games.

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

What do I do as a research assistant in epigenetics?



I work in a lab where I do research into epigenetics. This is the study of how things in our environment can cause changes that affect how your genes are working. I study early development of a mouse before it is born and compare it to the development of a baby before it is born.

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

My job helps build up our knowledge and understanding of early embryo development. Studying epigenetics helps identify what has happened when the development goes wrong. This knowledge is then useful for other scientists to treat associated diseases.

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What I like about my job

The best thing about my job is being involved in research to help improve peoples lives. I really enjoy being a part of such a large community of scientists. As a research scientist, I get to be involved in a lot of different projects and I learn a wide variety of skills from many different people.



Challenges I have faced

In science, you have to be able to communicate and present your work to others. To me this is a challenge as I have some stage-fright anxiety. But there are plenty of courses to help with this and everyone is very supportive.

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If you want to be a researcher in epigenetics, you need:

- ✱ to **be curious** and enjoy learning new things.
- ✱ to be able to study and **enjoy reading**. You have to read a lot of other peoples work and relate it to yours.
- ✱ to be able to **pay attention to details**.
- ✱ to **be interested in how control of genes works**. How and what they make and how this affects the body.

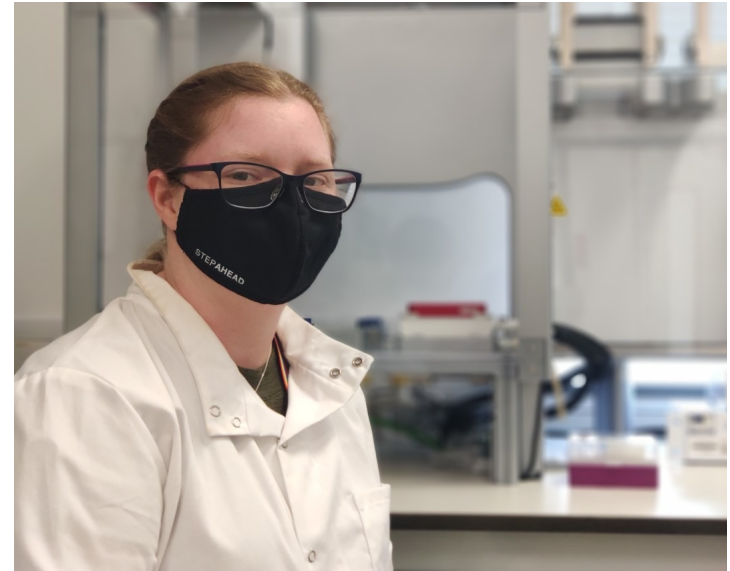


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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a researcher in epigenetics like Laura Benson?

Why? Why not?



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

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

Free supporting resources for epigenetics

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:

- Blood tests could detect cancers
- Dragons could save us from bad bacteria
- Bacteria get viral infections as well
- How to grow a new skin

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

