

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Dr Anastasia Aliferi
Forensic Genetics' Researcher

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Hi there! I am Dr Anastasia Aliferi – A Forensic Genetics Researcher



Where do I work?

I work at King's College, London and I am part of 'King's Forensics', a group that uses lots of different sciences, like chemistry and biology, to help police investigations.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I always enjoyed biology (although I struggled with physics!), but I also loved art. I considered studying architecture so I could draw more!

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love travelling and I try to fit in as many trips as possible in my free time! I also enjoy drawing, using watercolours and I occasionally bake.

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What do I do as a forensic genetics researcher ?

I work in a laboratory to develop and use new methods that can help us analyse crime scene evidence, like a blood drop on a carpet. I use the information from the blood drop to find out more about the person who left it: what they look like, their age, and where in the world they are from.



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

My research helps the police get a little closer to solving very difficult crimes, especially when they have no witnesses. This means that the people affected can get justice faster and some dangerous people can be found before they can commit any more crimes.

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What I like about my job

The best thing about my job is knowing that every experiment I do can help someone find justice and make the world a safer place. I love spending time in the laboratory, and I always get a thrill when the experiments work!



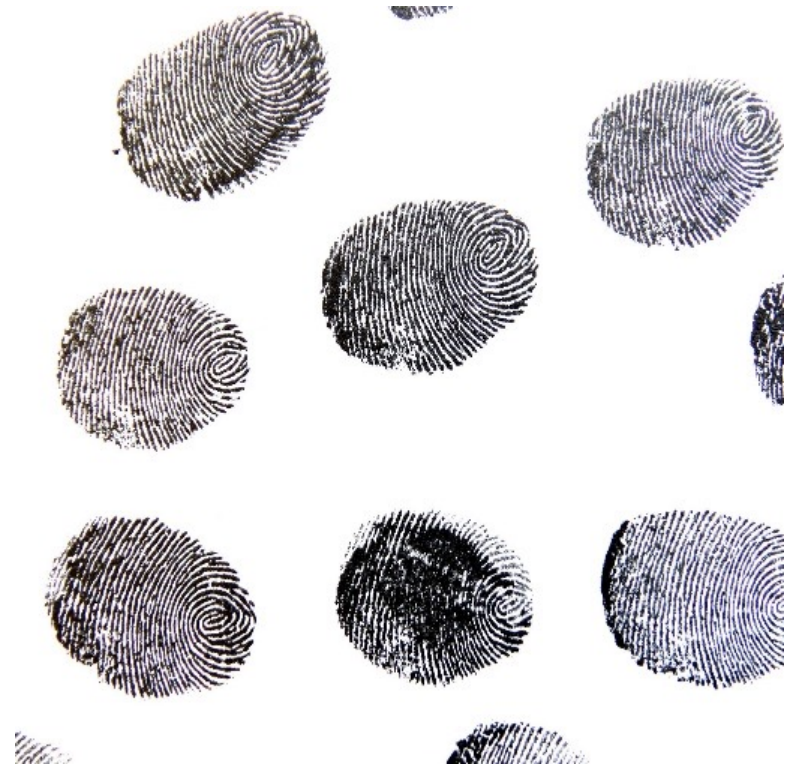
Challenges I have faced

My first experience working in science was not very pleasant. I wasn't treated very well and I was even told I was not good enough to be a scientist! Luckily, I decided to prove them wrong and continued my studies. I now work with inspiring people.

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If you want to be a forensic genetics researcher, you need:

- ✦ **great attention to detail** so you can make the most of the evidence you get from the police
- ✦ **a strong sense of justice** - you always have to remember that your work can change someone's life forever
- ✦ **to enjoy working on your own** as laboratory work can be lonely, even when working with a team



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a forensic genetics researcher like Dr Anastacia Aliferi?

Why? Why not?

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



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Free supporting resources for forensic genetics



Dr Anastasia Aliferi is a STEM Ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

[Learning Science Together](#) – See 'Kidnapping Mystery'

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

