# A scientist just like me

**Delphine Lebrun**

**Material Scientist**

Primary Science Teaching Trust

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## Hi there! I am Delphine Lebrun– A material scientist

### Where do I work?

I used to work at Osaka University in Japan, and then I moved to Belgium to work at Ghent University.

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

I loved to read, so much that my teacher had to take the books from me at break time. Later, I enjoyed mathematics, puzzles and logic.

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

I love doing things with my hands: I make cosplay, embroidery and I enjoy drawing.

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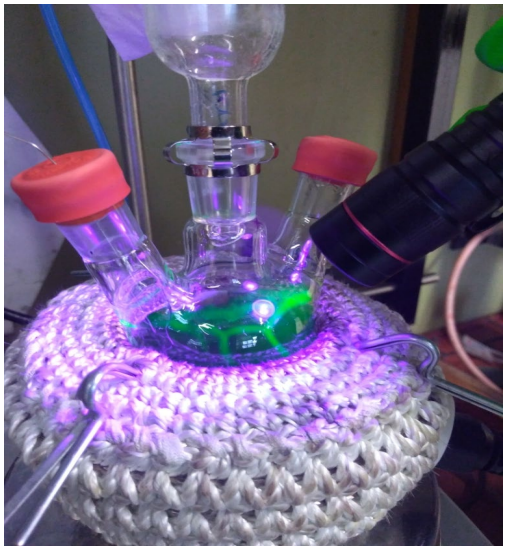
## What do I do as a material scientist?

I learn about materials and how I can change their properties. I use all types of tools to understand and change them. The most fun is to make a material smaller than a virus (invisible to the naked eye).



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

Materials are very important for all sorts of things in everyday-life, like phones and clothing. The most important work we do deals with types of energy coming from batteries, solar panels and wind-mills. I worked on LEDs used in TV screens that use less energy, and recently I worked on nanomaterials for solar and lightning applications.

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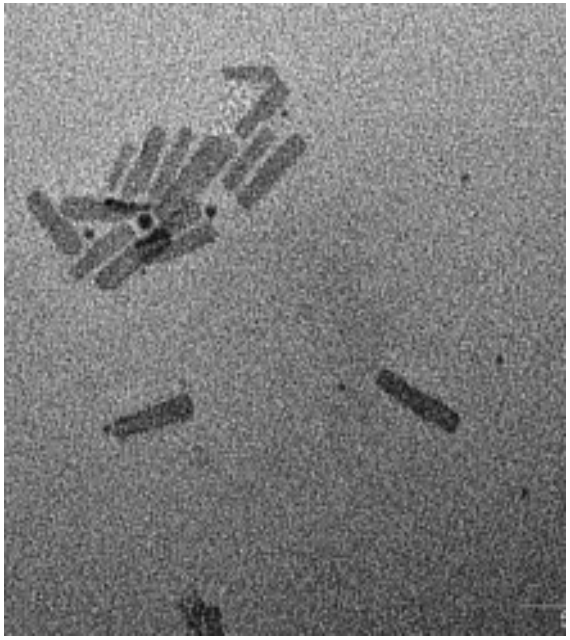
## What I like about my job

I work in laboratories with a lot of incredible equipment. I love taking pictures of materials on the nanometre scale (a bit bigger than DNA) with electron microscopes. I always learn something new when I talk with my colleagues. I love to discover new materials and new ways to use them.



## Challenges I have faced

Some of the lectures at university were really hard and I had to work hard to even pass them. I was lucky to have friends that helped me then. My parents are not highly educated, but I did not let this be an obstacle to my ambition. To work with and learn from the best scientists, you need to be prepared to live in new places.

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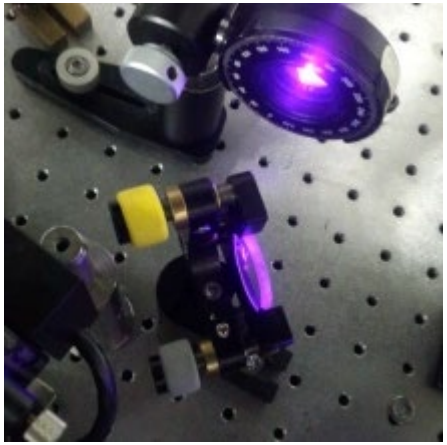
## If you want to be a material scientist, you need:

- **curiosity**: science is all about asking questions (why is this glowing?)
- **problem solving**: scientists face problems everyday (what can this do?)
- **organisation**: avoid mixing up results of experiments (where is this?)
- **computer**: material science is nothing without it (can I digitalize this?)



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## Discussion time

- Would you like to be a material scientist like Delphine Lebrum?

  **Why? Why not?**

- What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a material scientist?

- What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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## Free supporting resources for material science

**Materials Science** – create a materials trail using QR codes

**Science Fun at Home** – see 'Scavenger', 'Salty science' and 'Light up science'

**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:

- What small robots can do
- How to clean water using a molecular sieve
- Toilets of the future may charge your mobile phone
- Why face mask you should wear

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