

A SCIENTIST just like me



Nazifa Tabassum
Microbiologist and
Science Communicator

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Hi there! I am Nazifa Tabassum – A microbiologist and science communicator



Where do I work?

I am Nazifa, and I work as a microbiologist & science communicator at the Child Health Research Foundation in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

When I was in school, I loved reading storybooks, writing and sharing stories with my friends. I also loved solving puzzles and learning new things about science!

What do I like doing in my spare time

I like cuddling with my cat and managing her Instagram account. I also love taking pictures and exploring new places, people and food.

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What do I do as a microbiologist?

I am an infectious disease detective! In the lab, I work with a team which hunts for bad bacteria and viruses in sick children. We try to understand why they make us sick and how to fight them. Outside the lab, I talk about science and share stories of our work.



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

As a microbiologist, I try to understand which bacteria and viruses make people sick, and how these microscopic bacteria and viruses survive. This helps people design specific medicine and vaccines to fight them. As a science communicator, I talk to people about how we can use science to solve local and global problems.

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What I like about my job



When you work in a research lab, you test out ideas and try to find something new that helps people. I love the thrill of facing something new every day. I also love stepping out of the lab to set up science camps in high schools and to share stories about science.

Challenges I have faced

Trying to find something new means you must be patient and re-do experiments when they don't work. This can be a challenging and long process. Sometimes it can also be difficult to get other people excited about science and the work we do.

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If you want to be a microbiologist & science communicator, you need:

- ✱ **to be curious.** Do you question things?
- ✱ **to be keen to investigate.** Do you enjoy thinking like a detective?
- ✱ **to pay attention to detail.** Do you observe and take note of things?
- ✱ **to be creative.** Do you like letting your imagination run wild?



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a microbiologist like Nazifa Tabassum?

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 hospital doctor.

[I bet you didn't know...](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- 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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