

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Cliona Kelly
Neuroscientist

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Hi there! I am Cliona Kelly – A neuroscientist



Where do I work?

I work at Aston University in Birmingham.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

In school I loved performing arts, psychology and P.E. When I was younger, I wanted to be an actress but now I love everything to do with humans and their brains!

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love baking all types of treats and reading. My favourite books are by an author called Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

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What do I do as a neuroscientist?



I take pictures of brains using a machine called an MRI scanner. I also find out more about human behaviour by asking people to take part in virtual reality experiments and recording what their brain is doing.

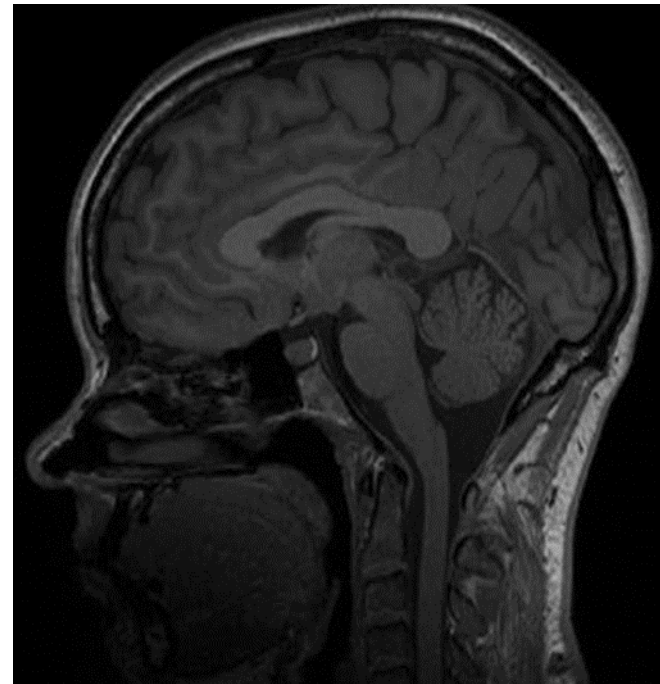
How does what I do make the world a better place?

My job involves finding out why we behave in certain ways. For example, when someone doesn't feel well, they behave differently. We can sometimes find out why and help to make them better again.

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What I like about my job

The best thing about my job is seeing how everyone's brain is different and how everyone behaves in different ways. I also get to keep pictures of my own brain!



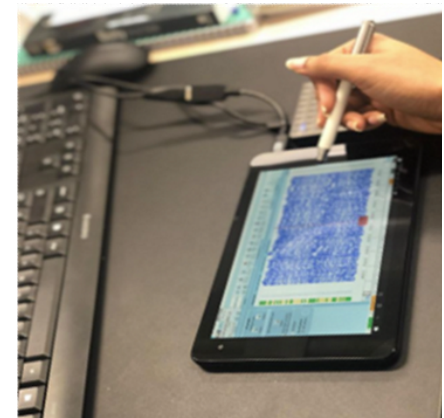
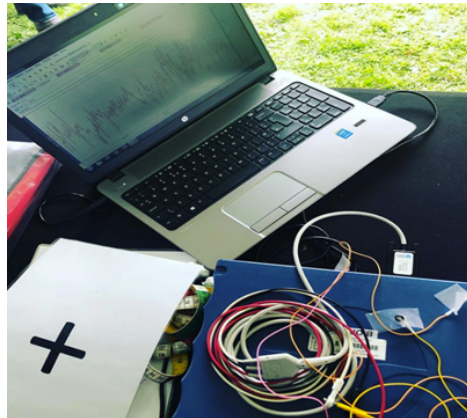
Challenges I have faced

There are not a lot of neuroscientists that look like me and sometimes that can be difficult. I hope that younger children who look a bit like me will also want to become neuroscientists when they grow up, and this will help change things.

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If you want to be a neuroscientist, you need:

- ✱ **a great imagination** so you can think of different experiments to find out more about the human brain
- ✱ **patience** as understanding the brain takes time and thought
- ✱ **an inquisitive mind** so you keep asking questions until you find an answer
- ✱ **computer skills** so you can analyse data from your experiments



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a neuroscientist like Clíona Kelly?

Why? Why not?

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



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Free supporting resources for neuroscience

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

There currently are no articles about the nervous system in humans but you may be interested in:

- How do plants know good microbes from bad ones – to find out how plants use chemical and electrical signals

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