

# A SCIENTIST just like me



**Dr Stephanie Yardley**  
**Space scientist**

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**Hi there! I am Dr Stephanie Yardley – A space scientist**



## **Where do I work?**

I work alongside other space scientists and engineers at the University College London's Mullard Space Science Laboratory which is based in the Surrey Hills.

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

I loved maths and science and was always interested in astronomy and space. I am now fascinated with anything to do with our star, the Sun.

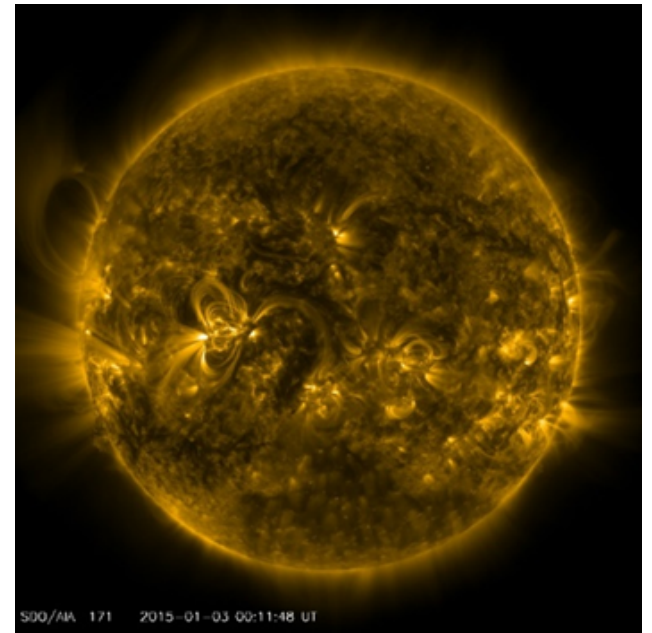
## **What do I like doing in my spare time?**

I love music - particularly I enjoy playing the piano and Latin dancing. I also spend most of my time playing with and walking my puppy, Elsie.

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## What do I do as a space scientist?

I analyse images and data of our Sun collected by satellites up in space and telescopes on the ground, to find out about explosions that occur on its surface. This helps scientists understand these explosions and what we can do to protect us, and our technology here on Earth.



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

By learning about our own star we can understand how it affects us here on Earth. We can prepare for any damage that might be caused to our technology, such as power grids, satellites and radio signals, and we can protect astronauts in space and people on aeroplanes.

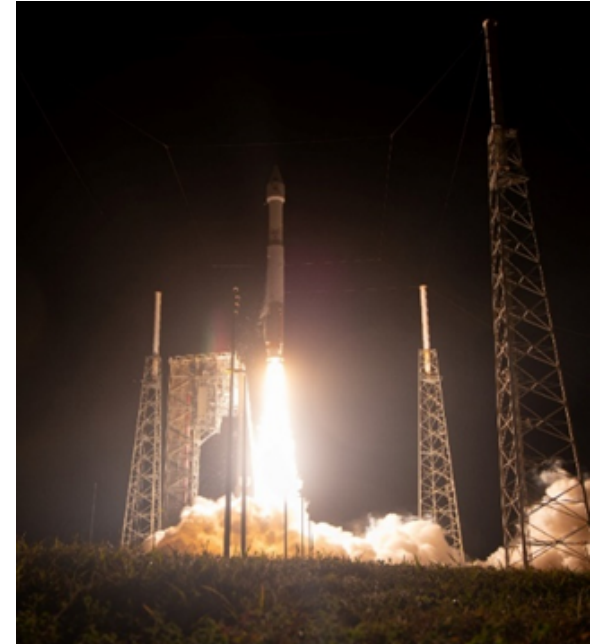
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## What I like about my job

I love working together with friends and colleagues to develop and share new ideas and theories. We often travel across the world to conferences to listen to the latest space science results, and we have science discussions related to our latest projects.

## Challenges I have faced

Girls are often discouraged from pursuing a career in science and therefore we are often a minority in certain science subjects, especially physics and engineering. I enjoyed science so much that I did not let this stop me from pursuing my dream job. I have worked hard at school and university to get where I am today.



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**If you want to be a space scientist, you need:**

- ✦ to have an **enthusiasm for space** and astronomy, an interest in stars, planets or objects in space
- ✦ to **be motivated** to work hard and study
- ✦ to be able to analyse data and to **draw conclusions** from it
- ✦ to **be curious** and have a desire to know how things work and to **ask questions** like: How does the Sun produce its energy? Why is it so hot?

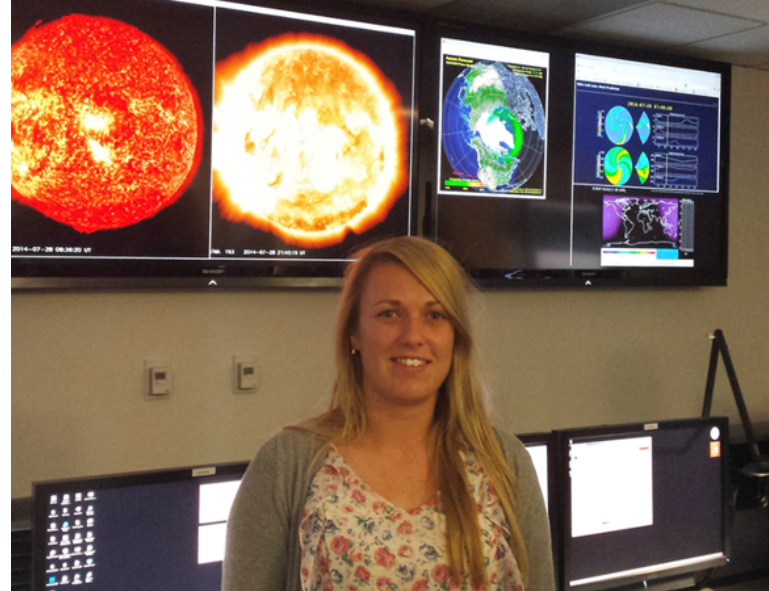


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## Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a space scientist like Dr Stephanie Yardley?

**Why? Why not?**



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

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## Free supporting resources for space science

[Science Fun at Home](#) – see ‘World Space Week’ and ‘Rocket Science’

[Science at Work](#) – see ‘Gene Cernan’ and ‘Meet two space scientists’

[City Science Stars](#) – practical science activities (for ages 9–11), using links to football, other sports and space

[I bet you didn't know...](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describe investigations linked to the research:

- How to play planetary hide and seek
- One of Saturn's moons could be a home for extra-terrestrial life
- InSight into Mars
- Ice giants at the end of the Solar System
- There is a storm coming and it is not going away
- There is lightning at the edge of the Solar System

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

