

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Dr Alison Parker
Water scientist

A SCIENTIST just like me

Hi there! I am Dr Alison Parker – A water scientist



Where do I work?

I work at the Cranfield Water Science Institute at Cranfield University. I am a Senior Lecturer.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I liked science subjects because of the way you could measure and understand things. But I also liked the natural world and loved geography, especially the field trips.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love being outside and I do a lot of outdoor sports like climbing, mountain biking and kayaking.

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

What do I do as a water scientist?

I do a lot of research into the challenges faced by providing people with clean water and a safe place to go to the toilet in places like Kenya, India and Peru. I also teach students and prepare them for a career in water science.



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

I work with some of the world's poorest communities, for example, people living in remote rural area in Ethiopia, or dense slums in India. I try to work with organisations who are already making a difference to these people like local governments and charities.

A SCIENTIST just like me

What I like about my job



I love that I get to make a difference to people's lives, both in the communities where I do my research, and for the students that I teach. I also get to travel to a lot of interesting places all over the world.

Challenges I have faced

I have to get my own funding for my research, which can be a lot of work. Sometimes organisations who I really want to work with don't have any money to pay for research, or sometimes you write funding proposals that get rejected.

A SCIENTIST just like me

If you want to be a water scientist, you need:

- ✱ to **enjoy a wide range of subjects** like chemistry, biology, engineering, psychology, geography, social science and economics
- ✱ to be genuinely **keen and motivated** as a lot of the work ends up working on waste-water or poo. Are you fascinated by how we deal with the waste that we all produce, or will you find it repulsive?!
- ✱ to **enjoy thinking** about how to apply what you know to different problems



A SCIENTIST just like me

Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a water scientist like Dr Alison Parker?

Why? Why not?



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

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

Free supporting resources for water science

[Starters for science](#) – see 'Melting ice'

[Science Fun at Home](#) – see 'Liquid science', 'Salty science', 'Watery science' and 'Science with Ice'

[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. See:

- Toilets in the future may charge our mobile phones- this article was inspired by research carried out by Dr Alison Parker and her colleagues at Cranfield University
- The science of hand-washing
- Water can be harvested from the air in very dry climates

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

