

A SCIENTIST just like me



Nicole Melzack
Battery Researcher

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Hi there! I am Nicole Melzack – A battery researcher



Where do I work?

I work at Southampton University in a laboratory.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I really enjoyed photography, maths, and physics when I was at school. I loved the creativity of taking a photograph and then going into the darkroom and using chemicals to create a photograph.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I have a cat called Gizmo and I love spending time playing with him. I like playing new boardgames or finding a fun cake recipe to bake.

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What do I do as a battery researcher?



I'm trying to find new battery designs that work just as well as the ones we use now, but that are better for the environment.

I work in a lab and try new ideas in beakers and flasks. They look nothing like the batteries we buy in a shop. My work happens right at the beginning of the design process.

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

Batteries help us store energy from renewable sources like the sun, instead of relying on burning fossil fuels. I work to make batteries more environmentally friendly, so we can look after our planet more.

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What I like about my job

I enjoy coming up with ideas for battery designs, thinking about the best way to build and test them, and then getting into the lab and making something I can test. I love how creative my work is. I get so excited when an idea I had at breakfast can be made and tested by dinnertime!

Challenges I have faced

As a disabled scientist, I have found it hard to work as quickly as I would like. I get very excited about an idea, but my condition might get worse, so I have to slow down and look after myself before going back in the lab. My lab-mates always try to help when I am unwell.



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If you want to be a battery researcher, you need:

- ✱ **Passion** – being excited by the work you do is important for any job
- ✱ **Patience** – sometimes ideas take a long time to test and analyse and they don't work out the first time
- ✱ **To be happy to be wrong** – I think this is the most important thing. When I have an idea, I don't just accept it. I think of a way to test that idea, and it is important to accept if it turns out to be wrong. Understanding why you are wrong can help you improve.



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a battery researcher like Nicole Melzack?

Why? Why not?

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

