

# A scientist just like me



**Dr Alli Cartwright**  
**Science Technician**



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**Hi there! I am Alli Cartwright – A science technician**



## **Where do I work?**

I am a science technician using my skills as an environmental scientist and microbiologist. I also do voluntary ecology surveys and lecture at a university.

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

At school, my love was always science and geography. The Earth is amazing, and I love animals.

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

I like being outdoors. I am particularly fond of freshwater sponges (think of SpongeBob SquarePants in a stream!).

# A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

## What do I do as a science technician?

As a science technician, I spend my days preparing the resources for practical activities for agriculture, horticulture and vet nursing students. I get to teach them and to tidy up afterwards.



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

I love nothing more than helping a student learn a difficult laboratory method. I like teaching students how to grow microbes on agar plates (like the one in the picture).

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## What I like about my job

I like the variety in my job, as no two days are the same. I also rarely sit or look at a computer, which suits me. I get to help in plant research such as pest control. (Can you see the aphid in the picture?) It is always nice to get outside.



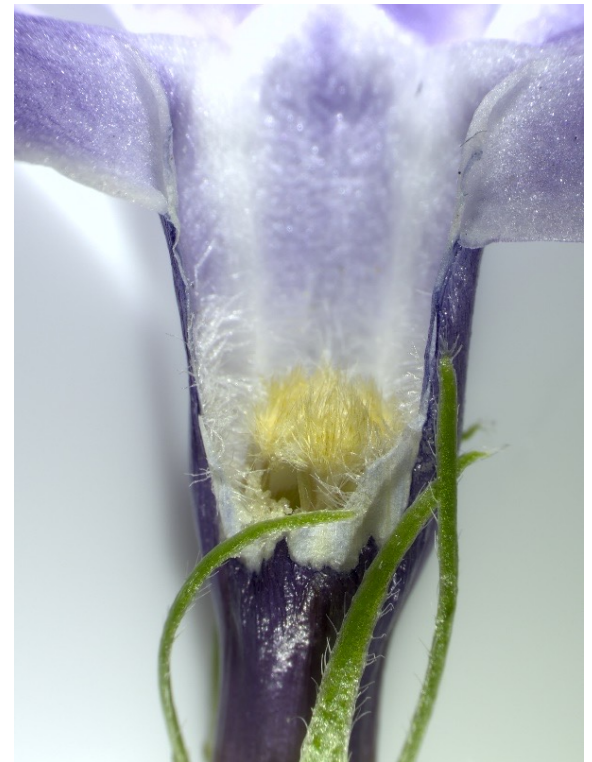
## Challenges I have faced

The main challenge I face is getting everything prepared for classes whilst also teaching some of these classes. I work long hours in the term. I also did a PhD because I love science and learning. It is not needed for my day job but it's great to have more knowledge.

# A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

If you want to be a science technician, you need:

- ✱ to be curious
- ✱ to be keen to learn new skills
- ✱ to be practically-minded
- ✱ to be organised
- ✱ to be patient – it took a long time to get the photo (on the right) arranged under a microscope



# A SCIENTIST just like me

## Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a science technician like Alli Cartwright?

### Why? Why not?

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



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Dr Alli Cartwright is a STEM ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

## Free supporting resources for science technicians

[Bringing Back Glass](#) – a set of activities to help children explore the importance of glass in everyday lives, for scientific experimentation, problem-solving and in technology.

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

