

A Scientist just like me



Dr Elisabeth Curling
Senior Lecturer in
Biosciences



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Hi there! I am Dr Elisabeth Curling – a senior lecturer in biosciences



Where do I work?

I have been working at the School of Biosciences at the University of Kent for many years.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I always loved biology, and I spent hours playing at the seaside in rock pools. I have always loved English and writing stories.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love to paint watercolours. I am a member of two choirs in Canterbury. I also enjoy yoga, qi gong and mindfulness to unwind.

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What do I do as a senior lecturer in biosciences?

I am passionate about teaching the next generation how our bodies respond to infection, and how to identify bacteria growing in special dishes during laboratory lessons. I also teach animal and human physiology – how the body works.



Getting ready for a practical laboratory class for students in the university labs

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

By training the bioscientists of the future, we at the university can keep discovering new and better treatments for infectious and other diseases. We can look for new antibiotics to tackle bacteria and new 'antiviral' medicines to treat viruses.

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What I like about my job

I love looking down the microscope at bacteria and animal cells. I also like seeing real understanding and 'light bulb' moments from students after one of my lectures. I love to hear from students. Many are now successful scientists working on immunology and vaccines at universities all around the world.



Challenges I have faced

Sometimes there are not enough hours in the day! There's always plenty of work to be done. I also get disappointed when students don't turn up to labs or teaching sessions.

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If you want to be a senior lecturer in biosciences, you need:

- ✱ to **enjoy communicating your passion** in the lecture theatre as well as in the lab
- ✱ your slides to be full of pictures and real-life examples of how our body fights diseases
- ✱ to be **friendly and approachable**, so students don't worry about asking questions!



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a senior lecturer in biosciences like Dr Elisabeth Curling?

Why? Why not?

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



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

Free supporting resources for biosciences

Did you know? articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides can be used as classroom presentations. They explain what scientists have done and suggest practical activities for children. Children interested in marine science might also be interested in these projects. See:

- [Catching Flu Might Depend on the Type of Place in Which You Live](#)
- [Dragons Could Save Us From Bad Bacteria](#)

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

