

# A Scientist just like me



**Professor Helen Stagg**  
**Infectious Disease**  
**Epidemiologist**

# A SCIENTIST just like me

**Hi there! I am Professor Helen Stagg – an infectious disease epidemiologist**



## **Where do I work?**

I work at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, in central London, but I work with different people in many countries.

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

I wanted to study history, particularly Russian history, for many years. It was only later in school that I decided to study science.

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

I love reading, sewing, listening to music, gardening, cooking, watching films, walking, running and hanging out with friends.

# A SCIENTIST just like me

## What do I do as an infectious disease epidemiologist?

I work with colleagues in many different countries (currently Germany, India, Latvia, Malaysia, Norway, Tanzania, Uganda, and the US) to try to improve health. We look at data from large populations to find out about health and disease. A lot of the work I do is with the very poorest communities.



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

Epidemiologists try to find better evidence to make sure fewer people get sick, that they are treated better when they get sick, and that more people recover from being ill. We work closely with big national and international organisations to improve healthcare.

# A SCIENTIST just like me

## What I like about my job

I love all the travelling I do. I had never been abroad until I was 24 and where I grew up was not a diverse place. I love working with amazing people around the world and eating fantastic food in different places. I also feel the work I do really makes a difference.



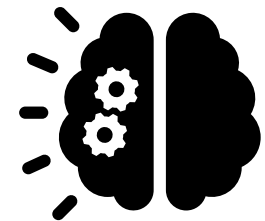
## Challenges I have faced

I grew up poor - money was very tight in my family. Our house was mouldy, and the walls ran with water on the inside. I was very fortunate that a previous boss continued to pay my wages while I studied for my Master's course. It can be expensive to study.

# A SCIENTIST just like me

If you want to be an infectious disease epidemiologist, you need:

- ✱ **to be someone who likes asking questions**
- ✱ **to like logic problems** and conundrums-figuring out how things fit together and problem solving
- ✱ **to be interested in health** and really care about making the world a better place
- ✱ **to be respectful**, open to learning about new cultures and interacting with different people



# A SCIENTIST just like me

## Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be an infectious disease epidemiologist like Professor Helen Stagg?

**Why? Why not?**



- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become an infectious disease epidemiologist?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

# A Scientist just like me



Prof. Helen Stagg is a STEM ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

## Free supporting resources for epidemiology

[Why & How magazine](#) – see 'Pictures for Talk' in issue Autumn 2022

[Science at Work](#) – see 'Meet two doctors'

[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

