

A Scientist just like me



Kiera Colquhoun
Technical Safety Engineer



A SCIENTIST just like me

Hi there! I am Kiera Colquhoun – a technical safety engineer



Where do I work?

I work at an engineering consultancy in the energy sector, working as part of a large team to design oil and gas, and renewable energy developments.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

My favourite subjects at school were maths, science and history.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love playing team sports, my favourites are football and netball. I love hanging out with my friends. I also like to watch quiz shows on TV with my family.

A SCIENTIST just like me

What do I do as a technical safety engineer?

I look at the design of a facility (e.g. an oil rig) and make sure that it is very unlikely that something will go wrong. I want to prevent leaks, fires and explosions! I also make sure that if anything did go wrong, we have designed and put in place the best possible systems to protect people from harm.



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

I help to make sure that people feel safe at work and make it home safely everyday. I also make sure it is safe for people who live and work near to a facility.

A SCIENTIST just like me

What I like about my job

The best thing about my work is that I get to use my engineering knowledge to make a real difference to people's lives. I like that I get to interact with different types of engineers on the projects I work on.

Challenges I have faced

When I was at school and university I did a lot of sports, so I had to work to balance my time and make sure I was succeeding both in my education and my sports.



A SCIENTIST just like me

If you want to be a technical safety engineer, you need:

- ✱ to be **good at teamwork**, so you can get the best design possible
- ✱ to be **good at talking to other people**, because sometimes you will have difficult conversations with other engineers if you think their design is not safe enough
- ✱ to **pay attention to detail**, to make sure nothing gets missed
- ✱ to always **be willing to learn**, the more we learn about why and how things go wrong the better we can be at preventing them



A SCIENTIST just like me

Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a Technical Safety Engineer like Kiera Colquhoun?

Why? Why not?



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

A Scientist just like me



Kiera Colquhoun is a STEM ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

Free supporting resources for engineering

[Why & How magazine](#) – See issue 17 – ideas for engineering learning in the classroom

[Science at Work](#) – See ‘Meet two engineers’

[Science & STEM Clubs](#) – see ‘Engineering Our World’

[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:

- [Bamboo could be used to make cricket bats](#)
- [Weird, wiggly, crawling wheels roam Mars](#)

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

