

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Rebecca Hand
Associate scientist

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Hi there! I am Rebecca Hand – an associate scientist



Where do I work?

I work for AstraZeneca in Liverpool where I help make Influenza (Flu) vaccines for children.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

When I was at school, I loved art and getting messy. It was my favourite lesson and I still do lots of creative things now.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

In my spare time I study and photograph insects. I love their colours and getting outside.

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What do I do as an associate scientist?



My job looks at the development of new flu vaccines each year. My team carry out experiments that check whether a new type (strain) of flu virus is suitable for manufacture in the next season's vaccine. We focus on the making sure the flu vaccines are clean.

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

My job makes the world a better place as every year we create a new flu vaccine that is given to children across the UK, Europe and the world. This keeps everyone as safe as possible as it also helps to protect families and those who cannot have the vaccine themselves.

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What I like about my job

The best part about my job is getting to work and talk to so many wonderful, different people such as scientists, engineers and the manufacturing staff. Work is different every day. I also work on biodiversity by improving our site to encourage the local wildlife.



Challenges I have faced

One of my biggest challenges has been learning how to work with dyslexia. I had to work out how best to take notes, run meetings and complete my written and practical work. Telling others, and making them aware of how my dyslexia affects me, has really helped.

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If you want to be an associate scientist, you need:

- ✱ to **problem solve** – if something goes wrong, how can we make it right?
- ✱ to **be observant** – see what is going on around you
- ✱ **good communication skills** – share what you have learnt with others.
- ✱ **determination** – science does not always work the way we would like, but you have just got to try again!



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be an associate scientist like Rebecca Hand?

Why? Why not?

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



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Free supporting resources for virology

I bet you didn't know... articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- Catching flu might depend on the type of place in which you live
- Dragons could save us from bad bacteria
- The science of hand-washing
- Bacteria get viral infections as well

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