



FIONA ROBERTSON

Regulator, Explorer and Investigator

“My job can be challenging, which is fun [...] it’s amazing to see all the different uses of lasers”

Fiona Robertson, Laser Safety Technician, Lasermet

What kind of person is Fiona?

Fiona is a naturally curious person who loves discovering new technologies and how they impact Science. She’s very self-motivated and that’s helped her to get through her studies and get extra work experience. Fiona also describes herself as very methodical and persistent—great traits to have when you are in charge of making sure products are safe to use!

What is Fiona’s job?

Fiona is a Laser Safety Technician for Lasermet, a company that provides laser safety expertise to institutions like laboratories, hospitals, universities and manufacturers. Her job is to test all the different kinds of lasers that are produced to make sure they are safe. She’ll test anything from LEDs in children’s toys to make sure they don’t hurt people’s eyes, to giant machines used for welding in car manufacturing—those lasers can cut right through a person’s arm if not used properly! As part of her role, Fiona also teaches training courses on how to use lasers properly. One aspect of her job that she loves is being able to travel: she’s only worked at Lasermet for six months but has already visited a Nuclear Research Facility and the National Physics Laboratory!

How did she get that job?

Fiona was always keen on doing something she really enjoyed. Initially, she wanted to study English at university because she loves reading. However, during her GCSE’s she came to love Science because of how it explains everything around us, including how the Universe was formed. She completed Physics, Chemistry and Maths A-Levels and was able to get a summer job as a lab technician working on cancer treatments, which was great experience. At Southampton University, she studied Physics, including a unit on Photonics, which introduced her to lasers. Fiona also did STEM outreach work at university, which developed teaching skills that she uses in her current job. As a graduate she earns £18,000 but she’s about to get a pay rise!

Why is Fiona the ‘Regulator’, ‘Explorer’ and ‘Investigator’?

Fiona is a great example of the ‘Regulator’ because her job is all about making sure lasers are produced to a high standard. She also has strong ‘Explorer’ and ‘Investigator’ types because she researches new technologies and examines scientific challenges. Fiona feels the ‘People Like Me’ quiz would have been useful at school because it would have introduced her to a whole range of jobs suited to her personality and abilities.