



KATHY ROMER

Explorer, Supporter and Service Provider

“ [the best things about my job are] the variety of things that I do and the fact I get to meet interesting people. I am never bored! ”

Kathy Romer, Reader in Astrophysics, University of Sussex

What kind of person is Kathy?

Kathy is a very reliable person—she’s been in her job for over 20 years! She’s also quite creative and persistent, great personality traits to have when you’re focused on unlocking the mysteries of the Universe! Kathy is very collaborative too, which helps her get along with her students.

What is Kathy’s job?

Kathy is a Reader in Astrophysics at the University of Sussex, which means she mainly splits her time between doing research into the physics of space and teaching students at the University. She also does quite a lot of work organising the courses and mentoring her students. Kathy is actually amongst a pretty elite group of people: there are only a few thousand professional astronomers in the world!

How did she get that job?

Growing up and throughout her education, Kathy had many different career aspirations: prime minister, doctor, police detective, politician and even “mad professor”! But, space and astronomy ended up being her calling. She did various Science A-Levels, then a degree in Physics at university and finally a PhD in Astrophysics. She completed a number of temporary research positions before getting her current role. When she began her academic career, Kathy earned £32,000. Kathy has taken several family breaks in her life and generally enjoys the flexible hours that come with being an academic.

Why is Kathy the Explorer, ‘Supporter’ and ‘Service Provider’?

Kathy is a very keen ‘Explorer’: her job is all about doing research and experiments to test different theories! Her teaching side means she’s also a good example of the ‘Supporter’ and ‘Service Provider’ types because she plays an active role in developing young people, as well as helping them learn and gain skills. Kathy definitely thinks the ‘People Like Me’ quiz is useful for helping reflect on possible careers. She also thinks it’s important to keep an open mind about the results and focus on the things you love doing.