



SARAH LONSDALE

Explorer, Investigator and Developer

“ I like the fact I have the opportunity to shape my project if I discover something interesting that I would like to pursue – not a lot of jobs can offer that ”

Sarah Lonsdale, PhD student, University of Edinburgh

What kind of person is Sarah?

Sarah is a self-motivated individual, who is persistent and methodical when it comes to getting things done. She also has quite a logical approach to life. Those personality traits really help Sarah focus on the task at hand, mainly trying to complete her PhD!

What is Sarah's job?

Sarah is a PhD student at the University of Edinburgh. She's studying Nuclear Astrophysics—that means exploring the nuclear reactions that create the chemical elements in stars. It's an important field because it helps us to understand the Universe we live in. On a day-to-day basis, Sarah might visit international laboratories like CERN (which focuses on Particle Physics). Or she might focus on creating computer code to help analyse her data. She's even a teaching assistant at the University, helping teach undergraduates the foundations of Physics.

How did she get that job?

Sarah wanted to be a teacher when she was growing up, so, to a certain extent she's fulfilled that dream. As she got older she actually wanted to be a pilot, which is why she chose A-Level Maths and Physics. Although being a pilot didn't work out, Sarah isn't disappointed; she's thrilled to be working at the forefront of a really exciting and important scientific field! As a PhD student, Sarah earns a stipend of £14,000 per year, which she supplements by teaching on per hour basis.

Why is Sarah the 'Explorer', 'Investigator' and 'Developer'?

Sarah is a great example of the 'Explorer' and 'Investigator' because as a PhD student she concentrates on discovering and understanding her area of Science. Since she does a lot of coding and data analysing, she also fits the 'Developer' type quite well too—she might even want to be a Computer Modeller or Software Developer after her PhD. Sarah believes the 'People Like Me' quiz would have been a great help to her at school because she was always changing her mind about what career she wanted!