



JESSICA HAMER

Trainer, Service Provider and Regulator

“ The best part of my job is seeing the enthusiasm and excitement of young people when they learn something new for the first time – it sounds cheesy, but it’s true! ”

Jessica Hamer, Project Officer, Institute of Physics

What kind of person is Jessica?

Jessica is a very collaborative and empathetic person, both of which are great personality traits to have if you work with young people. Her creativity and natural self-motivation meant she was a great teacher before she moved on to a new career.

What is Jessica’s job?

Jessica is a Project Officer for the Institute of Physics, which is a scientific charity that promotes education, research and careers in Physics. They have over 50,000 members worldwide! Jessica’s job involves encouraging young people to study Physics. More specifically, she works on the ‘Improving Gender Balance’ programme, which aims to get more girls to take up Physics as a subject in school. It’s a really important job because there’s currently a big shortage of girls studying Physics and women in STEM-related careers.

How did she get that job?

When she was young, Jessica wanted to be a pilot but it turned out she was short-sighted so she couldn’t pursue that career. She was always interested in understanding the physical world around her and so she did Physics, Biology and Geography A-Levels before studying Geology at university. She then did a PhD in Paleoclimatology (the study of ancient climates!). When Jessica decided to be a Physics teacher, she completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in Science so she could teach. When she started teaching, she earned £24,000 a year and that salary increased quickly because Physics is a teaching subject that is in high demand.

Why is Jessica the ‘Trainer’, ‘Service Provider’ and ‘Regulator’?

Jessica is a great example of the ‘Trainer’ because she is passionate about Physics, great at getting people’s attention and likes to help people improve their skills — it’s a great type for teachers or people working with young people. As a ‘Service Provider’, she’s very organised and has a great eye for detail, which she uses when she plans her projects. Finally, Jessica is a ‘Regulator’ because of her sense of fairness, it’s part of the reason she believes in getting more girls into STEM subjects.