Name: Nick French

Current Job: IT Technician

Scientific Discipline/Field: Computer Science

University: University of Kent

Country: United Kingdom

Pick some letters (L,G,B,T,Q,+, etc.): Gay

Website: www.kent.ac.uk/physical-sciences/staff/profiles/techs/nick-french.html

What does your job involve?

My job is quite varied but mainly involves looking after and maintaining the IT infrastructure in the School of Physical Sciences. This can be fixing computer hardware, maintaining various software as well as looking after the school website. We have two labs with student PC's in which I maintain also.

How did you get to this job (education etc.)?

I got my BSc in Computer Science here at the University of Kent and after a few fixed term jobs in Canterbury and London I applied for my current job. I have been doing this job now for three and a half years now and still find I am doing new things all the time!

Do you feel being LGBT has affected your career decisions?

Being gay hasn't affected my career decisions. I've never felt put off from pursuing a certain career because of my sexuality. Ever since I was young computers and technology have interested me and so I decided to take my career in that direction.

Have you had any reactions from colleagues about being LGBT, either good or bad?

I don't think I've been treated any differently from any other members of staff. I've certainly never had any negative experiences at work. My partner and I recently got engaged and my work colleagues were very happy for us both.

Did you have any role models growing up (LGBT, STEM, totally unrelated…)?

I enjoyed the books written by Chris Wooding a lot and when I was younger I was an aspiring writer so I would say he would be the closest thing to a role model. He taught me it was ok to be imaginative and creative as a man and that being interested in books instead of sports wasn't abnormal.

What are your plans for the future?

Planning my wedding! As for my career - to take on more responsibilities and to get involved with the Technicians Commitment to help other technicians develop.