



CLARE LEE

Manager, Explorer and Investigator

“ I get to decide what science problems we investigate and make it happen ”

Clare Lee, Strategic Head of Observational Based Research, Met Office

What kind of person is Clare?

Clare is a curious and logical person with a keen intuition. Those personality traits help her explore and research some of the most complicated and unpredictable science: the weather! Clare is also very practical and organised, which is very handy when you manage 45 people!

What is Clare's job?

Clare is Strategic Head of Observational Based Research for the Met Office. Her team make scientific observations from aircraft and research sites on the ground. Clare's aim is to better understand the Earth's atmosphere so that the Met Office can improve weather and climate forecasts. The research covers a huge range of areas, from developing state-of-the-art instruments, to analysing data and improving the performance of satellites and customer-facing products (like weather forecasts!). Clare loves exploring this area of Science (meteorology) because it impacts directly on society. She also enjoys helping people develop their careers.

How did she get that job?

Clare wanted to be an astronaut or an astronomer when she was younger and while she studied with that mind she ended up focusing on the Earth's atmosphere, rather than planets or the galaxy! Although her degrees include a BSc in Astrophysics and a PhD in Atmospheric Physics, she recognises that a degree in any science subject plus a PhD in Maths or Science would have been just as useful. Her starting salary almost 20 years ago was £14,000, but not to worry, she makes a lot more now!

Why is Clare the 'Manager', 'Explorer' and 'Investigator'?

Clare is a great example of the 'Manager' because of all the people she oversees and the projects she helps plan and deliver. She also has strong 'Explorer' and 'Investigator' types because of the nature of her work: she researches and examines scientific challenges. Clare feels the 'People Like Me' quiz would have been useful, but also thinks you don't have to know exactly what you want to do—science will open a lot of doors in the future if you get these skills and knowledge now.