



SARAH MEDLEY

Explorer, Service Provider and Entrepreneur

“Aside from being part of cutting-edge research to develop the energy source of the future, I love being able to directly apply the physics and maths I learnt at school in the real world”

Sarah Medley, Tritium Plant Engineer, Culham Centre for Fusion Energy

What kind of person is Sarah?

Sarah describes herself as a self-motivated, conscientious person. Her friendly personality means she gets along well with other people. That trait combined with her hard-working nature helps her to be a great researcher who collaborates with others to make great advances in Science!

What is Sarah's job?

Sarah is a Tritium Plant Engineer at the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, which is where the world's largest fusion experiment is taking place (tritium is one of the fuels required for fusion). Fusion energy is really important for the future of humans and the Earth because it could provide clean, reliable energy. Sarah's job involves a mixture of computer programming and conducting experiments. She's part of a team designing the tritium systems for the next generation of power plants: a fusion power station!

How did she get that job?

Since Sarah was a teenager, she wanted to be a scientist because she loved the idea of helping humanity by conducting research. Her aspirations did change now and then, she wanted to be an actress and then a German teacher, but she still stuck with Science. She did Physics, Maths and German at A-Level and then did a Physics degree at university (including a year abroad in Germany, which she loved!). Sarah's starting salary was £24,000, which is about average for a graduate.

Why is Sarah the 'Explorer', 'Service Provider' and 'Entrepreneur'?

Sarah fits the 'Explorer' and 'Service Provider' types really well because part of her job involves her researching and understanding applications of physics and then programming tools that can help drive the future of fusion energy. She also recognises that one day she'd like to be a manager who plans and delivers new projects, which fits the 'Entrepreneur' type well too. Even though Sarah knew she wanted to be a scientist, she still thinks the 'People Like Me' quiz would have been useful at school because she didn't realise how important her soft skills and personality were to finding the right job. So, this quiz is a great starting point for anyone interested in Science.