

## Video 2

**Inka:** What were the first steps like you took into science and how did you get into you know what you're doing now, and how did you how did you know it was what you wanted to do?

**Annie:** Well it wasn't always what I set out to do, I think when I was at kind of high school level I thought about what I liked and where that could take me, so I always I always really enjoyed chemistry

**Taff:** My dad was a scientist. So my dad was a biologist, I actually really loved biology, I could do maths, I wasn't particularly good at physics

**Mark:** So, I had a really, kind of, mixed bag of A levels because at the time, I had no real idea where I wanted to go with my life my career

**Josh:** So, I got into this by doing an apprenticeship with The Open University

**Devyani:** It took a long time to figure out, so I tried lots of different things until I found the thing I liked the most

**Louise:** I've always loved science. When I was doing my O levels or GCSEs, I was in the transfer year, so I did half and half, I got a job working at the National Museum of Wales in the geology department, and I was responsible, if you ever go to the National Museum of Wales, I was responsible for the colour of the Jurassic sea in the display but I did that as a summer job as a holiday job and just fell in love with it.

**Zoe:** I got into what I'm doing through school actually, it was my, my Dad always encouraged me into science um but then I found geology when I was at the open day of my A levels I was already going to do geography um and my Dad said oh look there's geology over there why don't we just go and have a look and from that moment it was, I actually figured out that geology was what I wanted to do, it's the physical side of geography

**Devyani:** So I had a plan, like I worked as a software developer for two years and I saved up money to do my Master's, and then I did my Master's and it was a complete turnaround because this was in the social sciences

**Taff:** I'll be honest I have stumbled into my career, I've never had a really big plan, I wanted to be a doctor originally but I didn't get the grades at A level so I ended up studying chemistry

**Mark:** At the beginning I was just really interested in the sea, but, kind, of during my undergraduate degree - the questions got bigger and bigger that I was really fascinated in and, you know, really, kind of, understanding life as a feature of a planet, you know, as part of a planet, how common or rare that is as a phenomenon, as a process in the Universe. So what we see here at the Earth where we have a really kind of complex biosphere, is that unique to here? Are there other places like that? And so these are the kind of big questions

that I started thinking about during my kind of undergraduate time. I didn't really realise that you could actually directly work on stuff like that, until I discovered sort of astrobiology as a field of science, which was later on as I was looking for PhDs

**Claire:** I went a bit of a sort of different route in that I did the normal A levels, I did biology chemistry and maths, because I wanted to do something medical or scientific but I actually went the route of I did a medical degree first, really enjoyed it, but it's hard work and I worked as an osteopath. So I was treating patients but then my mind was still going back to like other interesting things and stuff in a lab. So I did my Master's in medical diagnostics and then it went from there and I started looking at volatiles when I did my PhD and since then there's just been another spiral with volatiles, which has gone from looking at medical samples, so we were trying to diagnose disease with volatiles to now this, which is looking for life with volatiles. So yeah a bit of a crazy way around and I'd always say you know whatever you do at A-levels don't worry because whatever you want to do in 10 years after that could be totally different and you'll still get there

**Hannah:** I was an outdoor educator for 8 years and from then I decided that I really enjoyed parts of the job, so talking to people and telling about things and explaining how things work and helping people learn and enjoy stuff outside of a classroom environment and so I went to take all of those skills and build on them and up came a job here doing this and I thought well let's give it a go and so built on those things that I found most interesting about my last job and allowed me to delve into an entirely new topic that I had never thought of before, of astrobiology.

**Taff:** What you'll find is actually most of the people who work in the space industry will actually have a very, will have a fundamental degree, whether it's engineering or physics or chemistry or whatever, so uh but sometimes just changing direction very slightly means another opportunity and a better opportunity turns up, so don't be afraid to change direction