



Victoria - Vacuum technician

Victoria's technical skills have given her the tools to travel the world

Victoria left her home town in South Wales to join CERN's Technician Training Experience - now the world is her oyster. "It's crazy really because I never thought I would leave Wales, and now I have no idea where in the world I will go next."

At school, Victoria struggled to concentrate and didn't know what she wanted to do - but she did know that she wanted it to be physical. Now she helps to create near-perfect vacuum conditions, so the Large Hadron Collider's particle beam can travel close to the speed of light.

"My job is really varied - one minute I can be building chambers, so spending the day lifting really heavy equipment and using spanners to tighten flanges; the next I could be fixing an RGA which is a really, technical, small and clean equipment which needs delicate tools."

Victoria is gaining skills she can use in any industry: "That's the great thing, the skills that you learn - problem-solving, being organised, being able to communicate with people with different skill-sets and backgrounds to find solutions - are transferable."

Her tip for anyone who wants to follow in her footsteps? "Never doubt yourself and never think that something is out of reach. I mean, I'm from South Wales, I didn't go to university and I work at CERN. I think it's important that people don't box themselves in and that they are brave enough to try. If they don't try, they will never know where they could end up, and if they fail they fail, they can always try something else!"

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2009
Completed GCSEs

2011
Completed BTEC National
Diploma in Applied
Sciences

2011
Completed the Welsh
Baccalaureate

2011-2014
Worked in Retail as a
Department Manager

2015-2016
Worked as an
administrator in a bank

2016
Became a Laboratory
Technician apprentice at
her former college

2017 - Present
Became a fellow on the
CERN Technician Training
Experience, Vacuum studies,
coatings and measurement

