Royal Botanic Gardens

Inspiring futures

Sarah Gattiker

Seed Curation Manager

I have a varied job in the Millenium Seed Bank (MSB) covering seed science, management and teaching.

I have a BSc Hons in Biological Science, covering the tiny to the vast – human genetics and microbiology up to conservation ecology.

I love the variety, problem solving, meeting people and being part of a partnership which is globally important and makes a difference.



I am: 1. Open minded

2. Positive

3. A creative problem solver

After my science degree I took several jobs, both paid and voluntary; even five jobs at a time! They all contributed to my skillsets of eye for detail, accuracy, patience, communications, multitasking, management etc. All are important for my work at Kew.

I don't have an average day. Dealing with global biodiversity and people means my job is hugely diverse and unpredictable. Science defines what we do at the MSB. It offers opportunity, responsibility and unlimited potential. It creates a language which is respected, utilised and responded to globally.

Seeds are life, hope and potential. The MSB is a priceless resource working globally with passionate people to make a difference.

Do not give up if you want a specific career; academic qualifications are not always the most important and can be obtained later. Work hard, be open to any opportunities that give you skills.



A good scientist is enthusiastic, curious, determined, asks questions, can imagine possibilities, adapt, invent and investigate, is prepared to work as a team, able to communicate and has an open positive attitude.

Want a career that grows?

Build your skills in science, technology, engineering, art and maths to give yourself a chance to blossom in a career like one of these varied and exciting jobs at Kew.

You could make a real difference to the world.

For further information: kew.org

