

# technotalks



## EPISODE 1: STEPHANIE HOWATH

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**Name** Stephanie Howarth  
**Job title** Chief Statistician for Wales  
**Organisation** Welsh Government  
**Qualifications** Degree in Psychology

### What are statistics?

Stats can be different for lots of people, but for Stephanie, it involves collecting and analysing data and using maths to tell us more about the people in Wales. This means carrying out surveys about people's attitudes, collecting information from local authorities about housing services or contacting businesses to see how many people are in work in Wales, and what type of jobs they do.

### Typical day

It's a varied role that involves lots of talking and problem solving. At this time (2021), Stephanie meets health boards to talk about mortality rates for COVID19, interpreting any changes that are happening in the hospitals. This information is very high profile and needs to be correct. She also meets with policy colleagues to ensure vaccination targets are being met and meets with colleagues across the UK to ensure things are happening consistently, which is challenging.

### Background

Stephanie has a Psychology Degree that included a lot of maths and stats, and she joined the Government fast stream for Statistics. Before this job, she was involved in analysing schools' data and the 2011 Census at the Office of National Statistics.

### Hobbies

Stephanie has recently retired from Roller Derby and taken up bouldering - indoor climbing with no ropes!



### Questions

1. Find out how computer science can help people working with statistics and statistical analysis.
2. What is the Office for National Statistics?
3. What data is collected by the Census? What is this data used for?

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## EPISODE 2: TERI, LAUREN, NIA & RAMA

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**Name** Teri, Lauren, Nia & Rama  
**Organisation** Technocamps

### Teri

Teri is a full-time lecturer at the Wrexham Glyndŵr University. She gained her GCSEs and BTECs before going into full-time work. After becoming a mother some years later, she worked in Science Communication and then did her degree in Computer Science. Her favourite thing about Technocamps is teaching people to program, especially primary school pupils!

### Lauren

Lauren is a Technocamps Delivery Officer and lecturer at Swansea University. She gained her GCSEs and A-levels, then studied a Computer Science Degree. After that, she started working at Technocamps and really enjoys teaching other people.

### Nia

Nia is a Technocamps Delivery Officer. She studied for her GCSEs and A-levels, before starting a Physics degree. She left the course as university wasn't for her. She now studies part-time for a degree with the Open University, and enjoys it a lot more this way. Working at Technocamps has improved her personal confidence!

### Rama

Rama is a Teaching Fellow at Swansea University. Rama studied for exams in Year 10 and 12 in India, which are equivalent to GCSEs and A-levels, before getting a Computer Science Degree and Masters. She then worked for Oracle (a database company) for 18 years before coming to the UK. She loves teaching at secondary schools and making workshops on new topics.



### Questions

1. What is the advantage of studying a degree?
2. What degrees can you study linked to computer science and STEM?
3. What can you do if you do not want to go to University?
4. Why is it important to research what degrees are available?

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## ▶ EPISODE 4: CARLY & NATALIE

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**Name** Carly Nettleford  
**Job title** Engineering Policy Officer  
**Organisation** Institution of Mechanical Engineers  
**Qualifications** A pre-degree apprenticeship in Mechanical Engineering, a BTEC in Mechanical Engineering and an NVQ in Performing Engineering Operations, then a full apprenticeship at a defence company before studying an Electrical Engineering Degree.

### Background

Carly did a HND (Higher National Diploma) in 2 years rather than 3, which enabled her to win Apprentice of the Year Award 2015. She was also a Field Engineer working on construction in lifts, then moved to Siemens, working in medical engineering, maintaining and repairing CT scanners in hospitals.

### Favourite part of the job

Carly enjoys seeing how things work, being part of a project and part of change. She also likes using cool technology like robotics surgery.



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**Name** Natalie Abbott  
**Job title** Radiotherapy Physicist and Registered Clinical Scientist  
**Organisation** Velindre Cancer Care  
**Qualifications** A-levels in Physics, Maths, Further Maths and Dance, a University of Birmingham degree in Physics, a Masters' Degree in Medical Radiation Physics.

### Background

Natalie is a Registered Clinical Scientist with the NHS. She previously worked as a researcher at the University of Bristol Oncology Centre. Her current role involves cancer treatment planning and delivery using radiotherapy machines, such as CT scanners.

### Favourite part of the job

Natalie likes being able to use her physics degree for something that is important to her and other people.

### Questions

1. What different qualifications can you study after completing your GCSEs?
2. Explain what different branches of Engineering there are.
3. What is Radiology?
4. How does a CT Scanner work?

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## EPISODE 5: LORNA BOLTON

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**Name** Lorna Bolton  
**Job title** Commercial and Intellectual Property Director  
**Organisation** Greenaway Scott Law Firm  
**Qualifications** Law Degree and LPC from Swansea University

### Background

Lorna wanted to work in business and commercial law, so she chose to study modules around that during her Law Degree and LPC (learning practice course to be a solicitor) while at Swansea University. After some challenges in her career due to the financial crisis of 2008, she went on to take the CILEx legal course, and while working at an aviation and engineering company as an in-house lawyer, was finally able to fully qualify as a solicitor. Working at the aviation company involved working as a solicitor for the company, buying and selling...



### Questions

1. Explain the process you have to go through to qualified as a solicitor.
2. What are the advantages of having lots of work experience?
3. What are the different areas of Law? What different roles can people have?
4. How can a solicitor work in the STEM sector?

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## EPISODE 6: FREYA & LOUISE

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MadeTech aims to positively impact the future of our country by using technology to improve society. The company help public sector and government bodies (such as the NHS, Passport Office, DVLA) and modernise their 'legacy tech' (websites, online systems, digital services) and improve their working practises.

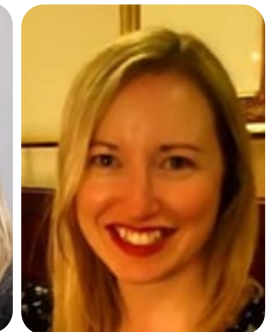
**Name** Freya Davies  
**Job title** Delivery Manager for Swansea  
**Organisation** MadeTECH  
**Qualifications** Applied Geology Degree with a web design module, a diploma in Computer Science

### Background

Studied Applied Geology and took an optional web design module, this inspired her to go on and study a diploma in Computer Science at Swansea University. Freya's first role in tech was training people to use Microsoft products, then she got into agile software development.

### Current role

Works managing agile software development projects. Agile software development is a way of developing a piece of software in the most efficient way possible for the customer. Freya is passionate about the user experience, making software as easy to use as possible, and has carried out a lot of research in this area.



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**Name** Louise Wilson  
**Job title** Delivery Manager for Manchester  
**Organisation** MadeTECH  
**Qualifications** Maths Degree

### Background

Louise did not know what career path she wanted. After finishing her Maths Degree she took a job with a healthcare company working on the IT support help desk, talking about software, resetting passwords, problem solving and doing some coding, learning on the job.

### Current Role

Louise works with clients to develop software they want to improve, looking at how they can do it in the best way, giving the best value for the client. She manages the programmers (developers), designers and researchers to bring together the software solution, which could be an app, website or booking system. She can also translate the technical information about the software development in a straightforward way for her clients. Louise enjoys working with, and managing, people.

### Questions

1. What are some of the key skills needed for the role of Deliver Manager?
2. Do you need to be an expert coder to work in this sector?
3. What other qualifications could you have and go into the software development sector?
4. What is important to do in the tech sector to enable you keep up with changes? Give some examples.
5. What is different about Agile software development compared to the 'traditional' way software used to be developed?