

Career Case Study

Name: Dr Jacqueline Boyd

Degree qualifications: BSc (Hons) Zoology (Parasitology), MSc Animal Nutrition, PhD Genetics

Job title: Lecturer/Senior Lecturer, Nottingham Trent University

Tell us a little about the career path you have taken since completing your studies at Aberdeen, including details of all jobs/ courses undertaken.

Following my PhD I moved to the Republic of Ireland and worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow examining the molecular basis of anhydrobiosis in nematode worms for four years before moving back to the UK and taking up my current post of Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Animal Science at Nottingham Trent University. As an integral part of my job, I have now completed a PGCHE and been awarded Fellowship of the HEA. My job affords me the ability to combine both professional and personal interests in terms of research and teaching across animal and equine sciences.

Was your degree at Aberdeen essential for getting to where you are now?

All of my time at Aberdeen was essential! I consider myself a “Jack of all, master of none” but I am confident in my knowledge and understanding of the subject areas studied and consider myself lucky to have been able to study a variety of subjects with a biological theme. Indeed, the diversity of my study has stood me in good stead for being able to diversify in terms of teaching and research areas.

If you are currently employed, did you need to undertake any additional, specific training in order to get your current job?

PGCHE was essential and required as part of my current job, as is HEA Fellowship.

What careers advice would you give to students currently enrolled on the course you completed at Aberdeen?

To take as many opportunities as possible – even if they don’t seem relevant at the time, it is amazing how sometimes you need to fall back on prior experiences/contacts! Work hard, but also play hard as a good work-life balance is critical and never forget those who have helped you get there (and those who are helping you get there!!)

In terms of your career, where do you see yourself in 5 years time?

Hopefully combining my interests still and working in science!