



Career in Maths Spotlights

Career Spotlight



STEPH APOSTOLODIS

Site Manager
IGA Home Builders

Job Description

Stef – aka @melbournechippyck – shares active on-site insights into her gig as a site manager to her 148k Instagram followers!

Maths covered

Measurement

Best part of the job

“I can eat my lunch outside on a pile of dirt. I can work in sweat and dirt all day. I can get cuts and scratches, I can lift very heavy things, I love that, but that’s me.”

High School Maths

Despite initially struggling with the in-depth maths subjects she chose at school, she can see its relevance now. “I use my maths skills every day!” she says.

Career Spotlight

CARA GATELY



Character Rigger
at Animal Logic

Job Description

Cara creates the moving skeletons behind 3D animations. She's worked on commercials — think dancing insects and walking bread loaves — and blockbuster films like *Thor: Ragnarok* and *Peter Rabbit*.

Maths covered

Algebra

Best part of the job

"Using maths backwards!"

High School Maths

While Cara liked trigonometry, algebra and physics at school, surprisingly she never thought she'd work with them outside the classroom. "I never thought I'd use mathematics on a daily basis. It was a huge shock when I eventually did," she says.

Career Spotlight

CATHERINE ISAAC



Mechanical Engineer
Cochlear

Job Description

Catherine is working on developing a new-and-improved implant that will **allow** deaf people to hear better, connect with others and live a full life.

Maths covered

Geometry

Best part of the job

“The potential to improve the hearing of hundreds of thousands of people worldwide, allowing them to hear voices of loved ones and music again!”

High School Maths

Catherine has always had a natural affinity with numbers and, in particular the accuracy demanded by subjects like geometry. “I am a learner at heart. I love learning new skills and have always been good at organisation!”

Career Spotlight

DR KUDZAI KANHUTU



Deputy Chief Medical
Information Officer
Royal Melbourne Hospital

Job Description

Kudzai uses health data to improve the way care is delivered in hospitals.

Maths covered

Numbers and Statistics

Best part of the job

“We have the opportunity to fix some really significant system problems in healthcare,” she says. “For example, people in rural and regional areas often have profound difficulties accessing care!”

High School Maths

In her numbers-based gig, Dr Kudzai draws on the maths she learnt in high school every day – particularly all the statistics and data analysis. “Numbers are extraordinary but can often be underutilised,” she stresses. “Like untapped gold!”

Career Spotlight

STEPHANIE KOVALCHIK



Sports Statistician
Tennis Australia

Job Description

Day-to-day, Stephanie uses maths processes like statistical modelling, Bayes' Theorem (which shows how to update probabilities with new information), and machine learning to quantify things like how a player's physicality might affect their performance.

Maths covered

Statistics

Best part of the job

Tennis has always been her passion, so being able to combine her maths skills with her favourite sport every day is really cool. "Sometimes it doesn't even feel like work!" she says.

High School Maths

She wasn't always a fan! It was only when she was put into the highest class in Year 7 that Stephanie realised that she had a talent for numbers.

Career Spotlight

AVALON MARTINKUS



Quantitative Analyst
Bank of Queensland

Job Description

Avalon helps build and maintain computer models to assess the credit risk of customers.

Maths covered

Probability

Best part of the job

The fact that it's future-proof – the career opportunities are limitless! "Financial risk is a growing area," says Avalon. "I definitely foresee myself staying in the industry."

High School Maths

Avalon was always fascinated with maths in high school. "I never found maths to be impossible or a chore!" she says.

Career Spotlight



DR LEWIS MITCHELL

Researcher in Applied
Mathematics and Data Science,
The University of Adelaide

Job Description

Lewis combines data and maths to understand social networks like Twitter and Facebook, and how things like memes spread across them online.

Maths covered

Statistics, Probability, Algebra

Best part of the job

Showing how maths can be used in weird and wonderful places like social media platforms!

High School Maths

I enjoyed doing maths problems, but even more I loved seeing how maths connected to the rest of the world — in physics and nature. This is still my favourite thing about this subject!

Career Spotlight

ADAM MORGAN



Manager
Extreme Weather Desk
Bureau of Meteorology

Job Description

Adam leads a team of meteorologists that support state and territory weather forecasters in providing forecasts and warnings for severe and extreme weather – think cyclones, floods and dangerous fire conditions.

Maths covered

Measurement

Best part of the job

The questions he's asked when he tells them he's a meteorologist! "What TV station do you work for?" (Answer: None! The BOM is a government organisation.) "Does that mean you study meteors?" (Nope – that would be an astronomer.) And "what will the weather be like at my wedding in two years' time?" (Sorry, too far away to tell.).

High School Maths

Adam always liked science and maths in high school, so made sure he studied them at uni, despite not having a clue what he wanted to do career-wise. "Choosing subjects I enjoyed, eventually led to a career that I enjoyed!" he says.

Career Spotlight



KARLIE NOON

Astronomy Ambassador
The Sydney Observatory

Job Description

“To investigate the universe!”

Maths covered

Measurement

Best part of the job

Inspiring others! “I’m hugely passionate about getting more women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into science and maths. I think Mob are natural-born scientists, and I think we would all benefit from having more Indigenous values embedded within these fields.”

High School Maths

Karlie says she is living proof that you don’t have to be a typical straight-A student to do what you want to do.

Career Spotlight



LILY SERNA

Maths Educator, TV
Presenter and Data
Scientist at Atlassian

Job Description

As a celebrity mathematician Lily pushes the boundaries of where maths careers can take you – from writing books to presenting on TV.

Maths covered

Number

Best part of the job

“I love pushing past the common stereotype of what a mathematician is so people can explore the subject free from limitations!”

High School Maths

Lily always took comfort in the fact that there was no ambiguity in her maths units. “It always just made sense – my mind found comfort in how black and white it was.”

Career Spotlight

MINGMEI TEO



Epidemic Modeller
Defence Science and
Technology Group
Australian Government

Job Description

Mingmei works for Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) as an epidemic modeller, meaning she uses mathematical models, data analysis and programming to help understand, predict and ultimately prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Maths covered

Optimisation, Statistics, Stochastic Modelling

Best part of the job

“Working on interesting problems and making an impact.”

High School Maths

Mingmei says she always gravitated towards STEM subjects in high school and loved maths in particular thanks to a “fantastic high school maths teachers who took the time to explain concepts and provided help when I needed it”.

Career Spotlights



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