

# Careers Chat



## ABOUT JANE WOOD

LECTURER IN FASHION  
TECHNOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER  
FASHION AND BUSINESS  
TECHNOLOGY

### MY JOURNEY INTO SCIENCE

When I was little I loved dressing up and playing with clothes and makeup; I wanted to be a famous film star! Then, one of my neighbours gave me a toy science kit and I changed my mind – I wanted to work in a laboratory doing experiments with lots of brightly coloured liquids.

At school, my favourite subjects were art, design and technology, and chemistry. My chemistry teacher was a big inspiration to me and she convinced me to go to university. I saw a course called 'Textile Chemistry' and that's what changed my life!

After university, I worked for a long time in the textile and fashion industry as a textile technologist. Lots of people didn't know what that was when I told them what I did! I travelled all over the world to find and make the fabrics that designers could use to make clothes in large garment factories. My job was to make sure the fabric was the right colour, the right type and was delivered to the factory on time. If the factory had problems with using the fabric, she also help them solve these problems.

### MY JOB

I now work as a lecturer at The University of Manchester. As I have seen many ways fabric is made all over the world I understand the problems this can cause for the environment. I am passionate about sharing this with my students through my teaching and I through my research I try to make the most environmentally friendly fabrics possible.

### MY HOBBIES

I love textiles and crafts! I have my own workshop at home where I sew, knit, print and make all sorts of things. I also love my garden and enjoy growing plants that help me in my crafting hobbies.

### A QUESTION I WANT TO ASK

What would fashion look like if it was all made from sustainable materials?