

# THIS WEEK'S STAFF MEMBER CAREER HISTORY (05-11 Oct. 2020)

FOCUS ON: [MRS LARKIN](#)

What job did you want to do when you were in primary school? **Vet**

A veterinarian (vet), also known as a veterinary surgeon, is a professional who practices veterinary medicine by treating diseases, disorders, and injuries in non-human animals. Vets also work in research, public health, the government, the military, and in sports like horse and greyhound racing. They work for animal charities, in the zoo and the wildlife sector, plus many more. Starting salaries for newly-qualified vets are generally around £30,500 to £35,500. With further training and experience, your salary can rise to approximately £40,000 to £70,000. Vets working in large animal practices tend to earn more than those working with smaller animals.

## **Qualifications required:**

To work as a vet, you need to study for a degree in Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Sciences. To enrol on a degree course, you'll generally need five GCSEs (4 - 9), three A-levels, (including chemistry and biology, physics or maths) and some experience of working with animals, e.g. at a farm or veterinary surgery.

All vets operating in the UK must be a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). To become a member, you must complete a five-year course at the vet schools of one of the following universities: Bristol, Cambridge

(six years), Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, London (the Royal Veterinary College), Surrey or Nottingham.

What job did you have in mind when you took your options? **Forensic Scientist**

Forensic scientists provide scientific evidence for use in courts of law to support the prosecution or defence in criminal and civil investigations.

They are primarily concerned with searching for and examining contact trace material associated with crimes. Sometimes called criminalists or crime scene investigators, forensic scientists collect evidence at the scene of a crime and perform scientific and technical analysis in laboratories or offices. They may also use computers to examine DNA, substances, and other evidence collected at crime scenes.

Salaries for forensic scientists typically start at £20,000. With experience, this can increase to between £25,000 and £35,000. Salaries at senior levels can exceed £45,000.

### **What do I need to do to become a forensic scientist?**

You will need either an undergraduate degree in forensic science or a science degree and a postgraduate award in forensic science to become a forensic scientist. Degrees related to chemistry, biology, life sciences, applied sciences or medical sciences are likely to be the most appropriate, depending on the type of forensic work you want to do.

To do a degree, you usually need five **GCSEs** (4-9) including maths, English and science, plus three A levels (a combination of science-related subjects) or an equivalent level 3 qualification. Check with universities for exact entry requirements. There may be opportunities to start with a company as a forensics lab support assistant if you have qualifications such as HND, BTEC or A levels in science, together with relevant work experience. As with all forensics

vacancies, there will be tough competition for jobs. Colour-normal vision is usually required.

**Current job:** **Teacher of English**

A teacher is a person who helps students to acquire knowledge, competence or virtue, especially a person who teaches in a school. As a newly qualified teacher, you'll begin on a salary of at least £24,373.

**Qualifications required:**

- At least a GCSE grade 4 or equivalent in English and maths. If you want to teach primary or early years you will also need a GCSE grade 4 or equivalent in a science subject.
- A degree (or equivalent) of a 2:2 or above. If you want to teach at secondary or post-compulsory level, your degree should be in, or relevant to, the subject you want to teach.

**Previous jobs:** **Cleaner, waitress, student union charity liaison, dental receptionist**