

**Name:** Maureen Dixon

**Age:** 32

### **Background:**

Maureen grew up in Cricklade, Wiltshire. She studied A Levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry. She went to City University, London and did a three-year degree in Psychology followed by a PhD looking into the psychological processes involved in reading and spelling.



### **What sort of work do you do?**

I'm a lecturer in psychology at a University. This job consists of three separate but equal parts. The first is teaching the students, which is the part most people would expect. This covers lecturing to large groups of students (100-200 students at a time), seminar work (10-15 students at a time) and tutorial and research supervision which is done on a one-to-one basis.

The second part is research which all lecturers are expected to carry out. The good thing is that you can conduct research into any area that you are interested in, which gives you a lot of scope and possibilities to change if you get bored! The final part is administration. This covers everything from running courses, organising examinations, helping students, setting up careers talks, attending meetings etc.

### **What do you like about your work?**

I'm fond of the contact with students (well, most of them!). I like teaching to large groups, it's like performing on stage, but I also like the more intimate teaching and generally getting to know the people better. Research is also a good part of the job, it is new and ground breaking. If it goes particularly well it could be part of the information that you will be using in lectures to future students. Research is also the part that draws most strongly on my science background since it involves devising measuring scales, devising and running experiments and analysing the results using statistical techniques.

### **What's the worst bit?**

The marking! What can I say? Reading 150 student essays all on the same topic gets to you after a while.

### **What do you want to do in the future?**

I'm unsure. It's an interesting job and progression really relies upon specialising in either research or administration. Part of the lure of the job for me is in having the variety of the three different strands. Perhaps I'll train to be a speech therapist!