

## **Steff Gaulter**

All four of my grandparents were maths teachers, as was my father, so I suppose it was inevitable that I would end up in a similar field. However, I was always difficult and was the only one of my siblings not to study maths at University.

Instead I studied Natural Science at Cambridge University, specialising in physics. Obviously there's a lot of maths in physics, but I far preferred it, as there was more of a link to the real world. I loved the way that things did as they were told: balls thrown into the air, waves in a ripple tank, and even winds in the atmosphere.



Soon after leaving Cambridge I saw an advert for the Met Office. They were looking for maths and physics graduates to become forecasters. I've never looked back.

The Met Office's forecasting course is very intense, with months spent at a residential college and plenty of on-the-job training before you qualify. I loved it, and was the first person to get a distinction in their final forecasting exam.

Once qualified, the Met Office has a huge variety of careers available to you. With them I worked at RAF bases, commercial centres and also for the BBC. I really enjoyed working in media, being the weather expert; presenters could throw any question at you and you had to know the answer.

After a few years, I joined Sky News, where I also appeared on FiveNews, Virgin Radio, TalkSport and even on Richard and Judy! I've recently changed jobs again and I now live in Qatar, in the Middle East.

I was offered the job of Senior Weather Presenter for Al Jazeera English and for about the first 6 months I was the entire Weather Department! It was a very daunting time, turning up 2 weeks before we launched, redesigning the graphics, researching the forecast for the entire globe, being on-call 24 hours a day and doing all the presenting. But I've always loved a challenge.

Now our weather department has more than one member, I'll get a chance to visit exciting places that I wouldn't consider from the UK: Dubai, Muscat, Kuwait, even the Seychelles and the Maldives aren't far from here.

I certainly wouldn't be where I am today without a physics degree, and please don't ask me where I see myself in 5 year's time. I don't even know what country I'll be in! A career in meteorology can take you anywhere.

### **Qualifications**

**Forecaster Training Programme, Met Office**

**BA Natural Science (Physics), Cambridge University**

**A Levels: Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry**