Scientist in the Spotlight



Bleddyn Mon
Sailor and Performance Analyst
INEOS America's Cup Team

Q: How would you briefly describe your job?
A: I have a dual role within the team – as a sailor alongside a full-time position with the performance and analysis team.

Q: What does your typical day involve?
A: A typical day involves starting with the sailing team in the gym, we usually start around 7:30am and we'll train until about 9am. Then we'll grab some breakfast and I'll be into more of my engineering role. I'm part of the performance and simulation team so generally I will be running the **simulator** here, we'd normally run this for a couple hours each day. This requires some key preparation, such as getting information from the design team as to what they want to look at for a specific test. We always want to make sure that the energy transfers are as efficient as possible, to **maximise** the performance and speed of the boat. After that, I look at the analysis of the data and that's something I enjoy, it relates perfectly to being out on the water sailing. Then it's back to the gym again in the afternoon for a second session. Depending how I have got on with my work during the day I might be here in the evening, if not I get to go home!

Q: What is your favourite part of the job?
A: I love the fact that it combines the **hobby** that I've always enjoyed with the academic side that I've studied. I love the technical aspect of the America's Cup; that it's so fast paced, so cutting edge, you get to try new things. You get to work with some incredible designers and sailors, the team here is massive, you've got so much **expertise** in so many different areas with so many different people to learn from. It's great to be involved in that.

Q: How did you get into this job or career?
A: Whilst I was at university, I was fortunate enough to do a placement with a Formula 1 Team (that was at the same time as the America's Cup in San Francisco) it was nice to see a team of people who were all obviously extremely passionate about motorsport making their team's race car go as quickly as possible. For me, at that point I realised that my perfect version of that would then be to be part of an America's Cup team – especially as the boats have developed significantly over the last couple of years. After finishing at school, I went to study in Southampton, I did a degree in mechanical engineering and was sailing in the background whilst I was at university. Then in my third year at university I specialised in aerospace which then lead to getting the placement with Red Bull (Formula 1) and then following on from that, I started sailing with Ben (Ainslie) and his sailing team after San Francisco at the same time as finishing off my master's at university. It was quite nice going back to university after spending some time in the

industry because that gave me an **insight** into the value of what I was studying. I then rolled straight from finishing that masters in the summer of 2015 into joining the INEOS America's Cup team.

Q: What advice would you give to young people who wanted to get into this sort of career?
A: I would say, try and get a variety of experience in different industries and different areas, try and combine your interests, make sure it's something you're actually interested in.

Activity

Use the scientist's profile to answer the following questions:

1. What is the scientist's job?

   _____

   _____

2. Briefly describe what the scientist does in a typical day.

   _____

   _____

3. What skills do they need for this job?

   _____

   _____

4. What do you think is the most interesting part of their job?

   _____

   _____

   _____

5. Describe how this job links with the science you have learned in this unit

   _____

   _____

6. State the definition of any words in **bold** from the scientist's answers.

   _____

   _____

   _____

Science Mastery

Scientist Fact File

Skills Needed for this job: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	Describe this job in your own words:
Similarities between this scientist and you:	Your opinion of this job:
+ -	Additional notes: