



# Phizzi professionals

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## School

At A-level, I initially took an unusual mix of physics, art, classical civilisation and politics: the subjects most interesting to me. But halfway through Year 12 I realised I wanted to study physics at university and maths A-level was a requirement! So, I made myself catch up before Year 13 by studying maths in my spare time.



## What next?

I successfully applied to study physics at university – but I deferred my entry for a year to do an Art Foundation course first. It was nice to have a breather between school and uni to be creative. I studied some further maths topics at the same time, but my maths and physics had still gotten rusty when I started uni, and the first year was challenging to begin with.



## Why physics?

I've always liked finding out how and why things worked – taking things apart both physically and conceptually and putting them back together again, sometimes in new and exciting ways.



## And now?

My research devises experiments that could test both quantum effects and gravitational effects, as a step towards understanding if gravity is quantum or not. I partly did a PhD because I didn't want a 'proper' job, and to get the more commonly accepted gender-neutral title of 'Dr' (!). Plus, it's nice to contribute to the sum of human knowledge, particularly on such a cool topic.



## Physics in practice

Most of the physics I use daily is knowledge of optics to set up experiments with lenses and mirrors, and sometimes knowledge of quantum mechanics to predict the hoped-for results. Another useful skill I got from my physics degree was how to code – this also led to a summer job as a software engineer.



## Advice for young scientists

Curiosity about the world, and an enjoyment of puzzle solving. Also, determination – it is rare for any experiment to work the first, second, third, or even fourth time!

