



<b>Profiles</b>	Development
<b>Name</b>	Isobel Everest
<b>Age</b>	30
<b>Job</b>	Senior development chemist

I am quite a creative person and working in R&D suits me well.

### Career path and qualifications so far

I graduated from the University of Bristol in 1994 with a BSc (Hons) in Chemistry. At the time I had the opportunity to go on to postgraduate studies, however I decided to move directly into the chemical industry. Since graduating, I have worked for two different companies, both in the surface coatings industry.

In my first job I worked as a development chemist, concentrating on polymer based coatings for metallic substrates and food packaging. In addition to developing new coatings, I was involved in line trials of developmental products at food can manufacturing plants.

In my current role, I also work as a development chemist, this time formulating a range of conductive coatings for different applications in the electronics industry. This involves not only polymer chemistry, but also a good understanding of conductive particles such as silver and carbon. I am also involved in planning and managing the work of a technician on a day to day basis.

### Has anything you've done been especially useful in your career?

Working in the surface coatings field tends to be very hands on and most of the technical training consists of on the job learning. However, I have undergone very comprehensive training on polymer and paint chemistry – from understanding how polymers are manufactured through to modules on a wide range of surface coating applications. I have also written and presented two technical papers for an international electronics conference. As part of my personal development I have attended courses in presentation skills and marketing.

### What is a development chemist?

The role of a development chemist is primarily to deliver products that are tailor made for a particular customer or application. This involves developing ideas from conception, through to full scale production and hopefully commercialisation. The role can involve troubleshooting when problems are encountered in house, or at a customer.

### Day to day activities

On a daily basis, my job involves a fair amount of bench chemistry. I formulate products for my customers' end use, this involves making up samples then fully testing the materials on a particular substrate or component. If a sample looks encouraging, more rigorous testing is required, and repeat batches are made on different raw materials to ensure reproducibility. From here, I may be required to sample materials to my customers, or be involved in scale up batches of developmental products. The role also involves discussions with raw material suppliers who may be able to offer a new wonder product for my application.

### Why development chemistry?

Since being at university, I have known that I wanted to work in R&D (research and development). I am quite a creative person and working in R&D suits me well. At university, I found the polymers field very interesting and hoped to pursue a career in polymer chemistry. As a result, I ended up working in the surface coatings field. My current role is not in the traditional surface coatings field, but I have learned a lot over my career that I can apply to this different area.

### What do you most enjoy about your job?

I find the practical nature of my job very satisfying. It is very rewarding when a series of experiments give the final properties you want.

### What other skills do you need?

As a senior development chemist, my role involves liaising with customers at a technical level. It is very rewarding working closely with a third party to find a solution to their problems. The role also requires a lot of patience; not every experiment you conduct gives the results you want! Strong analytical skills are needed to try and work out why a result has occurred – an unexpected result can also have a positive outcome.

### Why is it useful to study a science subject at university?

Without a degree in chemistry I would not be able to do my job. The work I do is very technical and requires a good understanding of what the numerous components in the formulation are doing, and how they interact as a whole. Without a strong scientific background the work would be impossible to do.

### Further information/contacts

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Tel: 020 7930 3477 Fax: 020 7747 1414 [www.abpi.org.uk](http://www.abpi.org.uk)

The Chemical Industries Association (CIA), Kings Buildings, Smith Square, London SW1P 3JJ  
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Society of Chemical Industry, 14/15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS  
Tel: 020 7598 1500 Fax: 020 7598 1545 [www.soci.org](http://www.soci.org)

### For further information on careers in the chemical sciences contact:

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