

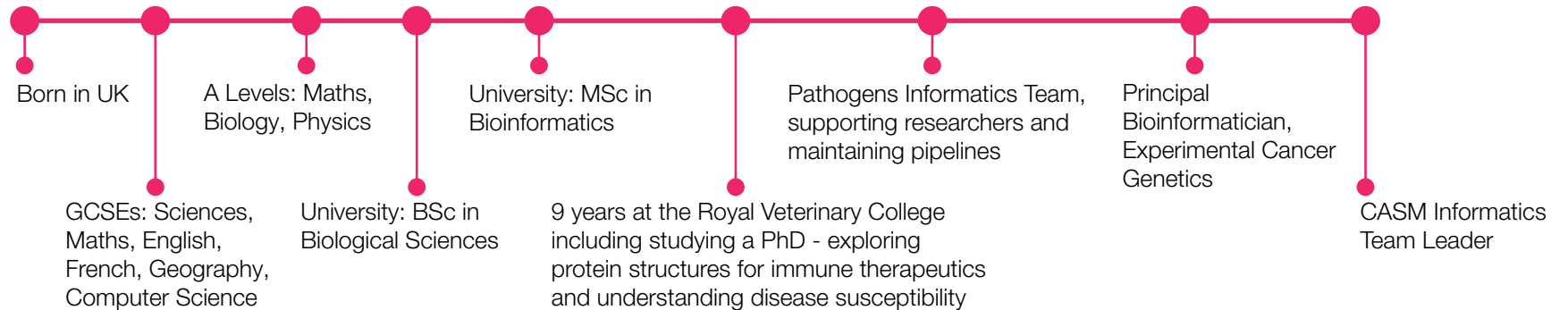


Name:
Victoria Offord

Job title:
CASM Informatics Team Leader

What do I do:
I ensure all of our staff have the support that they need to carry out the day to day science of the Cancer, Ageing and Somatic Mutation (CASM) programme.

My career highlights



What do I enjoy most about my job?

When you have a stressed PhD student in their final year coming through the door and you can offer them an ear for their troubles or something that can make their day easier. When people come into the office super excited and with lots of ideas is really enjoyable. Making a difference in some small way is what is so great about my job.

What does a typical day/week look like in my role?

I was warned that no day was the same and I didn't believe them but its true! I currently assist with a variety of teams whose challenges and science differs. One day you can start with everything working and then 5 minutes later something is broken, not working quite right and we have to calmly try and get things back up and running.

Skills I use in my job :



Listening

Understanding what researchers need is key to providing the right support. It's about actively listening, anticipating challenges, and making sure they have everything they need to focus on delivering great science.



Teamwork

A strong team culture is important. It's about collaborating, knowing when to step back, and making sure the right people are involved at the right time.



Communication

Most of the role is trying to make sure everyone is on the same page. Good communication stops small issues from becoming big ones.



Problem solving

It's about understanding the problem, whether it's needing new tools, offering advice or just creating space for ideas. The challenges often range from fixing a minor hiccup to figuring out how to juggle the impossible and everything in between!

My top tips for students wanting a career in genomics:

- Pick things you enjoy and are passionate about. Everyone I work with is passionate about what they do, it's not just a job, it's a vocation.
- Try lots of things! I would say travel and work in a variety of places and topics, find where your passions are.
- Talk to those around you. If there is a particular path you want to follow, talk to those that are doing it, there are lots of different routes into the vast array of careers in genomics.

What hobbies do I have?

I love a puzzle, either a jigsaw puzzle or an escape room, these are a big hobby of mine! I also love to learn new coding languages by setting myself little projects at home and I have 7 cats, who keep me nice and busy!

