

Who are the women involved in STEM?

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What I wanted to be when I grew up

I wanted to incorporate my love of sport with my career so intended to study sports medicine. Things changed, and I went down a completely different path.

Professional

Top-level responsibilities

Project management

Day-to-day work and skills

Project management, problem-solving, translating technical information into non-technical language.

The most rewarding part of my job is

Knowing that the systems and capabilities I help deliver to the Australian Defence Force will save lives.

Personal

Current location and community

Melbourne CBD

My interests and hobbies

Property development and any kind of sport, including running and CrossFit.

I am passionate about

Helping ensure that our daughters, nieces and friends understand that they can follow any career path they want. Anything is possible.

What I would say to 16-year-old me

Follow any career path you want, not what is expected of you. There is no harm in changing your mind later.

You don't have to be mathematically minded to pursue a career in STEM. You can learn to think scientifically or mathematically, no matter what your strengths or marks were at school.



Lauren Wright

Lieutenant Colonel,
Engineer and Project
Manager

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In secondary school, I studied broad subjects allowing flexibility to find the right career.

Halfway through Year 11, I decided to join the Australian Army instead of going to university. After a gap year, I completed officer training at the Royal Military College – Duntroon.

After some on-the-job experience, I resumed study and completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical), graduating with Honours.

I completed an MSc in Military Electronic Systems Engineering in the UK and, later, a Master of Military and Defence Studies at the Australian Command and Staff College.

To be an Engineer and a Project Manager in the Australian Army, you need a masters qualification in engineering and experience on the job. You have to be able to problem-solve and demonstrate the Army's core values.