

## LUCY DONNELLY



**Job:** Trainee Software Developer

**Company:**

I'm currently studying to become a full-stack developer with Code Nation, an intensive coding bootcamp in Manchester. This involves...well, a lot! We work on group and individual projects, using JavaScript/React/Python/Django, that can be anything from making a living, breathing cyberpet (Ok...not quite breathing but not far off!) to developing a volunteer connection app.

Diligent

Empathetic

Enthusiastic

**The skills I use most in my job...**JavaScript

- Python
- Teamwork

- Problem-solving

**The most interesting thing I've worked on in my career so far...**I'm still pretty new to software development but my favourite project so far has been using Python and Django to create a web app detailing unexplained events/phenomena. The user can filter incidents by location, date etc. and read about the circumstances of the event. I have to say everyday is pretty interesting because I'm always learning something new. The best bit is when something clicks, or you solve a problem after struggling for days and you get that 'Aha!' moment.

**What inspired me into digital and tech...**I spent my youth making Buffy the Vampire Slayer fansites and attempting to do a bit of graphic design on photoshop - that's pretty much where it all started! Computers, problem-solving and 'how things work' have always interested me, but I was never the quickest learner, or naturally good at maths/science. This pretty much put me off a career in tech at school and I ventured down a different path. However, my interest never went away, and I was lucky enough to be awarded a scholarship from Digital Her to study programming. I love learning and this fits in pretty well with the tech industry, where new concepts and tools are constantly being developed.

**My educational background is...**I studied Medieval History at university before going on to a career in HR. Not the most typical path to tech, but that's where Digital Her came in! I'd always been interested in working in technology and when a scholarship opportunity to study programming was advertised I jumped at the chance.

**What advice I'd give to girls thinking about a career in digital and tech...**Don't hold yourself back because you're not good at maths! There is such a great variety of positions available in tech that anything is possible! I would also say don't be afraid to struggle. Programming IS challenging, and it doesn't always come easily to everyone. You have to persist and keep going - problems aren't always solved in 5 minutes. It can take hours, days, or even longer but that's a key part of the learning process. If you're not good at something straight away, it doesn't mean you can't do it - you just need a bit more practice.