

NATALIE JONES



Job: Director, One Login for Government Programme

Company: Government Digital Service

I am the Director for the flagship One Login for Government Programme. This pioneering programme is committed to developing a digital system for people to prove their identity and access all central government services, regardless of their personal circumstances. I have overall responsibility to deliver this programme for the Government.

Passionate

Straightforward

Determined

The skills I use most in my job...Communication

- Stakeholder management
- Strategic thinking, seeing the bigger picture and creating a vision
- Problem solving
- Leadership and mentoring

The most interesting thing I've worked on in my career so far...One of the things I enjoy most about working in government is the breadth and sheer scale of the projects you get to work on. In my Civil Service career, I have been very lucky to have been involved in some of the biggest, most well-known projects, most notably the Home Office's EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). This EUSS came about as a result of Brexit and required the Home Office to devise and implement a programme that enabled the 3.6 million EU nationals living in the UK to remain here legally.

What inspired me into digital and tech...It was an accident. Early in my career I got involved in some rapid application development and realised I was really good at explaining how systems worked and working with developers to design them. That was the first 'go live' high I experienced, and after that, I was hooked.

My educational background is...I read Biology at the University of Hull, and maintain a passion for all things biology-related. Before university, I did A levels and prior to that I did my GCSE's. After university, I mostly focused on earning money quickly to pay off my overdraft(s) so got a job selling adverts in an insurance magazine. Many of the skills I use in my job every day stem from that period. The sales skills I learned come into play in most of my stakeholder engagement!

What advice I'd give to girls thinking about a career in digital and tech...Tech is cool! Digital is a fast-paced and exciting industry to be in right now and is at the forefront of our constantly changing world: the possibilities for innovation are endless. Careers in digital and tech are so varied, different skills are needed across the sector and there is something for everyone - whether you are a natural-born coder or have an eye for design; maybe you are intrigued by product development or even fancy yourself as a delivery manager - your interest and talents will be a perfect fit for the next evolution in the industry. Whatever it is that interests you there is a place for you and there is a space for you! It is a fascinating world to be in, and one that is set to grow and grow. Go explore, go to meetups, sign up for a hackathon, reach out to tech leaders, and try different things but go find your niche!