

OLIVIA MCVEIGH-MELLOR

My time at KCC: 2009-2014

I had a great time studying GCSEs and A-levels at KCC!

My journey since leaving KCC:

BsC – Sports Science

MsC – Biomedical Engineering

My job is:

I am a technical and research assistant at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, working in neuro and musculoskeletal rehabilitation. In the Motor Learning Lab we use 3D motion capture and an interactive environment to measure peoples walking; pre-operatively to plan orthopaedic surgical interventions and post-operatively for rehabilitation.



Have you stayed in Devon or moved away?

My opinion is that moving away for higher education was critical to gaining the life and learning experiences for the career I have ended up in. I did not know exactly what I wanted to do “when I was older” (still don’t) but finding other people with similar interests certainly guides you and moving away allows you to meet people you wouldn’t necessarily cross paths with by staying local – it doesn’t mean you can’t come back later!

Have you experienced any challenges?

I failed at least 3 exams between 2014 and 2019 as part of my undergrad and post grad....It happens – and sometimes I felt like I was doing it all on my own and spending a lot of money for the privilege! My maths skills were what let me down, at the time I had to force myself not to give up, retake the exams and in some cases I just about scraped that pass. I’m still not great at maths even though it’s the basis for a lot of what I do now, but putting it into the real world at work where it’s interesting definitely makes it easier.

My advice is:

Be questioning about what your options are, think about skills and experiences that are transferrable. Don’t worry if you don’t have a plan, look for things you like doing and find people who think and work the same way.