

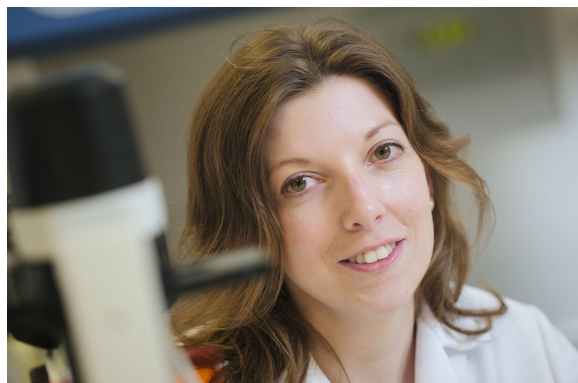
Dr Eleanor Bradley, Science Credentialing Manager

What did you study and where?

I studied Biology at Durham University for my undergraduate degree. Then I did a PhD at the University of Manchester looking at how skincare ingredients work inside the skin (funded by WBA).

Have you always loved science?

I have always loved science. Biology was my favourite subject at school as I was fascinated by the living world, but I also loved experimenting with chemicals in chemistry and learning about the solar system in physics. I really like the way science is so hands-on as a subject and you are finding out how the world around you works.



Did you ever experience any adversity getting into science because of your gender?

I've been very lucky and never suffered adversity getting into science. Many of my science teachers at school were women, so I always felt science was a career I could go in to. I've also been very lucky to have been mentored and managed by very supportive people in my job too. I realise this is not the same for every woman in science though.

How did you get into your role today? Did you always have an interest in applying science to beauty?

I have to say after university I didn't quite know what I wanted to do, and I wasn't really aware of the beauty industry as a career choice for scientists, even though I loved skin biology and used beauty products every day. But then I came across an advert for a PhD all about seeing how skincare ingredients work inside the skin and I thought it sounded exciting. My PhD was funded by WBA, so after finishing my studies I decided I didn't want to stop testing new ingredients and developing new products, so I moved across to join the Research Team at WBA/The No7 Beauty Company and have not looked back since!

What made you want to work for No7 Beauty Company?

I wanted to help develop highly effective skincare products that could make a real difference to people's skin. I also wanted to make products that my friends and family could see and use; and working for the No7 Beauty Company ticked that box. There are not that many jobs in science where you get to see a product you have helped create in shops up and down the country and across the world too.

How do you apply science to your job?

I work as Science Credentialing Manager in the Research Team, so I apply science every day in my job. Whether it is thinking about a way to test a new ingredient, writing a scientific paper, educating colleagues on skin biology or talking to journalists about how a new product works, I get to use my science knowledge all the time.

What is your favourite part of your current role?

My favourite part of the current role is getting to talk to people about the science behind our products. We do lots of amazing science behind the scenes when we make our products, with lots of different scientists involved, so it's great to make people aware of this and help tell the science story. Without science and scientists, we couldn't make our beauty products.

What is your favourite No7 Beauty Company product, and why?

My favourite products is the No7 Advanced Retinol 1.5% Advanced Complex Night Concentrate. Retinol is my favourite skincare ingredient as it targets so many different skin concerns, but it can be irritating to skin due to its potency. We did lots of work as a technical team to develop a retinol product that would give brilliant results but would be kinder to the skin, creating lots of educational material too on how to use the product. This has meant more people have been able to use and see the many benefits of retinol for themselves.

Finally, do you have any advice for girls or women who would like to get into science?

I would say be confident in your abilities and continue to be inquisitive, as with science there is always new things to learn. Having a network of support is also helpful as a scientist, as discussing both ideas and challenges can be hugely beneficial. Collaboration and discussion are as much a part of science as the experiments.