

Katarina Kozlikova, Lead Chemist

What did you study and where?

I studied in Bratislava at The Slovak University of Technology at The Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology. My study was oriented mainly towards chemical technologies and biotechnologies, food processing, nutrition and chemical and quality processes control.

Have you always loved science?

Since I was young I've always been very curious and interested about how things work. As a child, I was constantly making potions and lotions which my mum would find either fermenting or rotting around the house! It seemed a very natural choice to study science to learn about chemistry and product development. After graduating I joined the beauty industry which I am very passionate about – helping people to feel and look good in their own skin.



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

I was fortunate not to face any discrimination because of my gender.

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

Following my passion for cosmetics I joined the leading contract manufacturer in the personal care industry in the UK and focused on learning about developing colour cosmetics in response to customers' changing requirements. This included colour matching, full product testing, industrialisation and manufacturing.

This role also allowed me to work on innovation concepts and the development of product libraries. Here I came across Liz Earle Cleanse & Polish for the first time! This was the start of my career and was what made me curious about other roles in the industry specialising in developing, not just colour cosmetics but also, skincare and body care products, taking ideas from the laboratory to full scale-up, always keeping customers' expectations in mind.

After becoming a user of the hero Liz Earle product, coupled with my passion for colour cosmetics, I knew one day I would work for this amazing brand, and my wish came true! I joined the Liz Earle team 10 years ago and I never looked back. Now, being a part of No7 Beauty Company, my role has expanded to be responsible for other Healthy Skin brands which is very exciting – never a dull moment!

How do you apply science in your job?

I'm responsible for our passionate technical experts in our formulation team, as well as working closely with cross functional teams including brand marketing, packaging, sourcing, quality and many more helping to bring our Brand vision to life. Collectively we apply science in everything we do to ensure high quality, safety and efficacy for our customers.

What is your favourite part of your job?

The variety of every day, no two days are the same. I am particularly passionate about working with botanicals and natural ingredients and this job allows me that. I also love delivering the best skincare results for our loyal customers. Product efficacy is our priority, but I am also very interested in where the ingredients come from and I have been fortunate enough to visit amazing places in the UK and abroad with our botanical experts. I am also surrounded and supported not just by experts but great people and I have made loads of lifetime friendships.

What is your favourite product?

Liz Earle Cleanse & Polish Hot Cloth Cleanser

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

Just go for it, be brave and have fun.