

# Stepping into the Unknown

At TechFest, we are passionate about showing young people how to maximise their current skill set and interests to shape their future, finding a career that suits them, as opposed to making themselves fit a job.

To show just how varied skills and roles can be and highlight how important it is to embrace who you are, we're taking a look at each of our team members background, showing how they got to be where they are now, and how different everyone's paths can be.



By Gabija Blazyte,  
Digital Co-ordinator at TechFest

As you grow up, you begin to feel pressure to find a job, and not just any job, but one you know you will love. Your younger years are filled with discovering strengths, interests, skills, and weaknesses too. It's a journey of discovery.

I always found myself wondering, how often do adults find a job they love? And when you do, will it feel meaningful and challenging for years to come?

My journey to a job with TechFest was certainly not traditional, in fact, my role didn't actually exist prior to my interview. Sarah Chew, TechFest's managing director, said she saw something in me, something valuable that I could add to the team. I was offered a completely new position, one that allowed me to use my knowledge and ideas to help the team with their aims.

There is nothing quite like an employer creating a new position because they believe in you and can see your value. My confidence sky-rocketed.

But where did my experience come from? Prior to TechFest I lived and worked in one of my favourite cities, London. I was an events co-ordinator at a luxurious cinema based in a very prestigious area. The job was incredible, but also extremely stressful, I was organising various types of events for wealthy families, celebrities, and big companies such as Barclays, JPMorgan and Beach Point Capital.

As a people person, communicating with others comes naturally to me, it was my favourite part of my role and a real strength of mine. I still had plenty to learn of course; organisation, team-management, team-work, administration, negotiating, IT, and problem-solving were all competences I built on while working there.



The trouble is, once I had progressed, my role no longer felt meaningful or challenging, and that's important to keep our ambition thriving. Determined to advance, I took part in HR training, as well as in film scheduling programming and cinema projectionist training. These skills have helped me get to where I am today, but the job still didn't pique my interest the way it did a few years ago.

I knew it was time to get out of my comfort zone, so I left my job, enrolled in the University of Aberdeen to study MA Psychology and moved to the opposite end of the country, the North-east of Scotland.

It's been increasingly difficult for graduates in recent years to try and find any job, let alone the right job. I really struggled at this point in my life, I had never imagined how difficult it would be with my event experience and my new degree, but I'll never forget my interview experience with TechFest.

Initially, I had applied for an events co-ordinator role, but Sarah called me back and explained the position was not the right fit for me within the organisation. That's when everything changed. I had time to consider taking on this new position which she had created for me, and although it didn't have a job description at the time, I didn't need it. I accepted it straight away and it just felt right.

The role progressed into a digital coordinator position, which had a primary focus on social media. This was initially a shared responsibility within the team, so it meant I got to make it my own and make our content more strategic. It took some time to allocate all my responsibilities, but it also happened naturally as time went on and I showed what I could do to help. I now solely manage the TechFest social media channels and website as well as creating content for all our platforms.

Even in my first few weeks, I felt what I had been missing in my previous roles. Not only is the organisation's mission to focus on developing the next generation, but the team behind the scenes are a very empowering group of females, headed up by a strong and innovative managing director. I have learnt so much from all of them.



Alongside the rest of the world during 2020, our material needed to go digital to continue operations. I really thrived here and using my video production skills we focused on uploading as much visual content as we could, linking to various platforms, collaborators, and partners to make sure our message reached a much wider audience. Impressively, our content did go global in 2020!

It's been a learning curve, I've had to use my skills to help me along the way, including understanding the content management system we use to run our website. Sarah offered to organise a training course for me, but being the dopamine driven person I am, I wanted to learn it myself, I can't say "no" to a good challenge!

I often tell people that TechFest is more than a job to me, it's something that feels meaningful too. The flexibility the organisation offers me is incredible. I now actually work for the team from my home country, Lithuania, and I'm able to work a second job in a local school as an assistant educational psychologist. Thanks to the knowledge I've gained while working for TechFest, I've already started thinking of ways to add value in this role too.

Although it was terrifying stepping into the unknown and pursuing a completely different role, it has helped me find a job that I truly love. My career is testament to show that job roles sometimes require skills they employers didn't even realise, and that is why it's so important we remain true to who we are and show off our strengths. As individuals, we can help organisations operate in new ways.

TechFest is an amazing organisation with wonderful colleagues and an incredible mission – to promote STEM for children and wider communities. I am so proud to be part of this team.

## TEAM TECHFEST

