

In2science Peer Mentor Profiles – Victoria Murphy

At Melbourne University I completed a BA/BSc and Diploma of Modern Languages. My science major was Geology, which I chose partly because of the field trips! It was great fun to be able to learn outside and in groups, away from Melbourne with your friends. I also liked that by looking at a combination of small-scale geology, such as minerals under the microscope, and larger scale geology like faults you see in the field, you can find out about the geology and geological history of an entire region.



I was at uni for six years and applied for the **In2science** program in my fifth year of study. I decided to get involved because the idea of teaching students, if not necessarily being a school teacher, really appealed. Also, I thought that it would be good for my communication skills. I completed three **In2science** placements.

As a Peer Mentor, I enjoyed viewing things from the perspective of younger students who might potentially be science students. I gave talks on geology and shared my interest in the subject. I promoted Science Week and Earth Science Week, which gave me the chance to organise something and put it forward to the class teacher without being asked to do so. These talks were well received, and I would encourage taking the initiative to organise something for a class. There were many occasions when I used my general science and communication skills to explain things outside of my area. It was also good fun getting to know the students, and seeing them improve.

Being a Peer Mentor has given me extra confidence in talking in front of a group, and with a varied audience of teachers and their students. Through **In2Science** I've improved my explanation skills and my knowledge on various aspects of science by trying to explain somewhat tricky concepts without using jargon. Relating to and engaging people of different ages to yourself, and with different levels of knowledge, was a particularly worthwhile part of being a Mentor.

Currently I am working for Orica Limited, a large chemicals company, as a mining engineer. I do blasting for mine sites. I've only just started, so have had only a little hands-on experience so far. I am starting my second month with Orica in the Philippines for a three month Orica training course –an amazing opportunity- after which I should know enough to really get my hands dirty.

Victoria