



Dr Linda Morris

Associate Dean, School of Learning and Teaching,
College of Life Sciences



**Do what you enjoy and be aware of opportunities.
Pathways open up and you just have to see where they take you!**



I had a long gap of seventeen years between school and university when I ran my own catering business, got married and had three children! I'd always had an interest in science; when some of the teenagers I employed had science homework to do I would help them and this encouraged me to apply for teacher training. I was advised to do a degree in Biology first which would allow me to teach science at Secondary level. But during the first year of my degree I discovered an enthusiasm for Chemistry that led me to switch courses and then continue to study for a Masters and a PhD in Analytical Chemistry – I never made it to being a Secondary School teacher!

I became more involved in teaching at Aberdeen University during my MSc and PhD, taking tutorials for my supervisor and eventually as a Postdoc teaching a lot of his course. Realising that my main enjoyment was in the teaching of science

and not the research I applied for a 2 year teaching position at the University of Dundee. It felt like a risk taking such a short contract but the experience I gained in those two years resulted in my being offered a permanent position. I've been a Lecturer here ever since and have progressed to the role of Associate Dean of the School of Learning and Teaching. In my pastoral role, I give advice to students on what they can do after their degrees. I emphasise that they need to do what they enjoy and to be aware of opportunities. Pathways open up and you just have to see where they take you!

It's a tall order to manage children and a career. Doing the job I do now with small children would have been stressful so starting my scientific career when my children were older was a good choice for me. You can still have career progression at a later date.

A Day in my Life

I start my day early, checking and replying to emails before I get into the office at about 8.15am. My day-to-day work varies depending on my timetable; at the moment I teach for about a quarter of my time and the rest is spent fulfilling my management role and administering courses.

I teach at all undergraduate levels and deliver workshops, practical laboratory classes and lectures. I meet with students to discuss their progress and offer advice to them about their studies and futures. When I'm not teaching, preparing for classes or marking coursework I organise course modules and curriculum.

I also attend management meetings which can be to discuss individual modules, year groups or the School as a whole.

Undergraduate Degree
University of Aberdeen
BSc Chemistry with
Environmental Chemistry: 2.1

Masters Degree
University of Aberdeen
MSc Analytical Chemistry

**Postgraduate Certificate in
Teaching in Higher Education**
School of Learning and Teaching,
University of Dundee

PhD
University of Aberdeen
Professor Marcel Jaspars
*Isolation and characterisation
of marine natural products*

Teaching Assistant
University of Aberdeen
Oct 1999 - Dec 1999

Postdoctoral Position
University of Aberdeen
Professor Marcel Jaspars
Synthesis of cyclic peptides

Lecturer
School of Learning and Teaching,
University of Dundee

**Head of Teaching
Levels 1 to 3**
School of Learning and Teaching,
University of Dundee

**Associate Dean, School
of Learning and Teaching**
School of Learning and Teaching,
University of Dundee

Awards
2006 University of Dundee
Honourary Graduates Award for
Innovative Teaching
2006 Royal Society of Chemistry
HE Teaching Award for Innovation
in curriculum design
2008 Senate Award for Excellence
in Teaching
2010/2011 College Excellence
in Teaching Award
2011/2012 College Excellence
in Teaching Award
2012 Chancellor's Award for
Lifetime contribution to Teaching

