

Q&A from Webinar Viewers

Careers Webinar 2: Preparing for Jobs in Sustainability

Question 1: What challenges did Kim Croasedale meet when changing the direction of her career from drama to sustainability? And how did employers perceive it?

Kim Croasedale: Initially I was really worried that my scientific knowledge wouldn't be up to scratch, so I took it upon myself to take Maths AS level after quitting Drama. That really helped restore my confidence, and since I took Biology & Psychology A level, I was able to read over lots of notes anyway.

I had expected lots of people to be very confused and judgemental about my decision. In fact, although a lot of people are confused about it, I have never had anyone tell me it was a silly decision. I 100% believe that I needed to study Drama in order to realise that science was actually what I was really passionate about.

Employers have only ever been curious about my learnings really. Drama has actually given me a huge number of transferrable skills – it means that I am a confident public speaker and trainer, I have good communication skills and I know how to take an audience on a journey to keep them interested. I hadn't really expected to use so much of my drama training in any job, but in fact I'd say it has been incredibly beneficial for me.

If anything, I have been able to craft it as an incredibly positive and beneficial experience. I stuck at it for 2 years with determination, but then was able to admit that I was wrong, and when I did something that was right for me I applied myself and did a good job.

If you're in a similar position, make sure that you take note of the transferrable skills you've developed – any subject under the sun will give you knowledge and skills that you can transfer to anything else, you just need to identify and talk about those.