

Laboratory Manager

Andzelika Rutkauskaite is Laboratory Manager at FJ Church & Sons

How long have you have been doing the role?

I have been in my role for a year. This is also my first year working in this industry.

How did you get into the role? Did you come from a different sector?

I was contacted by a recruiter for this position. It felt way out of my reach, I've never managed a department and have never worked within metal recycling, so it was a shock to get asked for an interview. I used to do research in organic chemistry, after which I went into water testing.

What is your educational background?

I did Psychology, Maths, and Forensic Science A-levels. I failed Chemistry and my Maths was far from impressive! I don't think my A-levels are a good reflection of my skills, as I still went on to study Forensic Science at the University of Kent, attaining a First. I also stayed on to do a research Masters in Chemistry, more specifically on antimicrobial supramolecular self-associating amphiphiles.

What qualifications, experience and or specific training did you require?

FJ Church were looking for a relevant degree. However, I don't think they

specified an undergraduate, Masters or PhD. I think my living proximity was a key factor in them choosing me, as scientists are not easy to come by in Rainham! I believe my interest in data analytics separated me from the other candidates. I know this was the top for them when choosing a successful candidate.

What skills do you need for the role?

The key skills applied to this role is data analytics and the ability to use excel well. Also, time keeping and KPI tracking. Skills that help infer the status of the department and using the numbers to further improve the work we do.

Who would this role suit?

This role would suit anyone who is determined, as it isn't the typical white lab coat, spotless environment. It is based in a recycling plant so it's not as clean as a traditional scientific environment and there aren't as many colleagues around. The most important quality you must possess is data analytics and presentation, such as changing the way things are done for the better. A social attitude is also important as there have been many times where I have been sent out to meet clients and associates.



What advice do you have for anyone looking to start a Green Career?

I would say stay open minded. I would have never thought I would be working in such an environment, because I didn't know they existed. I think working for a smaller organisation can be just as rewarding as working for a large company. You feel more valued working with a smaller team, and you have the opportunity to build a great and close relationship with your bosses.

Metals recycling is a £7 billion sector and comprises an estimated 2,000 businesses and employs over 15,000 people.

It is an established globally competitive industry that provides essential raw material from recycling for metals manufacture, which in turn enables a significant reduction in use of energy and virgin resources.