

Maria Jimenez – Pen Portrait

I started working in education around the time I was finishing my degree in Biology, in 2004. Back then, I volunteered in schools presenting different environmental education programmes related to nature conservation, recycling, use of resources or climate change. My life by far has not followed a straight line, and after my degree I found myself working in the Arctic and participating in Antarctic expeditions! When my newly-wed husband and myself moved to Alnwick, I had started doing school visits delivering Polar Fun Days, where I talked to pupils about my adventures (and misadventures!) in the Arctic and the Antarctic. Currently, I combine my role as a mum of a 3-year old girl enrolled at Apple Class and my job as Team Lead for a Widening Participation Programme at Northumberland College, where I help students from disadvantaged backgrounds to progress onto higher education.