

Career Sheet: Polyolefin Healthcare Specialist



LUCIA COSTA (POLYOLEFIN HEALTHCARE SPECIALIST, REPSOL)

My name is Lucia Costa, I am 34 years old and I work for Repsol as polyolefin healthcare specialist.

I studied Chemical Engineering at Imperial College London. In 2008 I began working for the Spanish Oil company Repsol, on their graduate training scheme, obtaining a masters specialised in Petroleum Refining & Petrochemicals. I began my professional career as production engineer at the Puertollano Refinery based 250 km from Madrid and have been involved in different roles within the Polyolefin Technical Service and development Department since 2013. I am currently senior specialist for Repsol's polyolefin product range for all medical and pharmaceutical applications.



OVERVIEW OF THE JOB

I am currently in charge of project development and serve as technical advisor to customers worldwide with expert product, processing, and application knowledge for all Repsol Healthcare Polyolefin products. In my role I also work closely with account managers and product managers in developing and implementing product portfolio strategies and identifying opportunities to drive growth and create value in the field of medical and pharmaceutical applications.



WHAT INSPIRED YOU

My parents both come from a scientific background, so I was always very much encouraged and inspired by them. I was also very lucky to have had many female role models both during school as well as in my professional career. All these people have been vital in building my confidence and helping me grow in my professional career.



TYPICAL WORKING DAY

The beauty of my job is that there is no "same working day". My tasks are divided between developing new material solutions, solving specific technical issues and providing material and process recommendations to our customers, which often takes place in client's sites. This involves traveling to our customers' production sites to assist in machine and lab trials conducted by the client. Just as each product is different, each client problem is different, so this involves working with different groups of people within my company to help solve specific issues.

The great thing about my job is that I get to work alongside interdisciplinary teams and get to learn something new almost every day so absolutely no day is the same!



STUDY & CAREER PATH

I decided to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering because of my love for math and chemistry. Even late into my degree I did not have a preconceived idea of the career path I wanted to follow but I would say career fairs at university were extremely helpful in giving me insight as to the job opportunities that were available for me. Also, practical project and course work both at school and universities were vital.

I am professionally where I want to be right now, so I do not have any regrets. Every experience in the past 12 years at Repsol has led me to where I am right now, so I do not think I would have done anything differently.

All my colleagues studied STEM subjects, most of them having studied Chemical Engineering, Chemistry or Material Science.



KEY SKILLS

Critical thinking: Critical thinking is important in bringing creative and innovative solutions to the table.

Problem-solving: Problem-solving is a universal job skill that applies to any position and every industry. Good problem-solving skills are required to work toward smart, workable solutions.

Research: Innovation is important to bring new and competitive solutions that will add value to our customers and shape the future of the industry

Presentation: When approaching new customers, good presentation skills are important to deliver the right messages and ideas across in an efficient way.

Teamwork: About 80% of the work that I do involves working with different members of my company. This requires good team working skills and being able to work alongside diverse and interdisciplinary groups of people.



CAREER PROSPECT

These skills are common to many industries. A degree in engineering is extremely versatile and will allow you to seek infinite opportunities, whether it be in a purely technical position or branching out to more business-oriented positions later on in your career.

COORDINATOR

PREMIUM PARTNERS

GENERAL PARTNERS





CHALLENGES

As a mother of two one and a half year old, balancing work and personal life is not easy, especially in a job that involves travelling abroad. It is sometimes overwhelming, but I am lucky to be working for a company that gives me the tools and support I need to find the right balance.



YOUR ADVICE TO STUDENTS

Be curious, ask questions and work hard. These are the tools to success!



YOUR ADVICE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Develop projects at school designed to ignite children’s passion and curiosity for STEM subjects. It is also important to support and encourage youngsters. Teachers and parents have a vital role to play in empowering children and making them feel like they can achieve anything if they work hard.



COORDINATOR



PREMIUM PARTNERS



GENERAL PARTNERS

