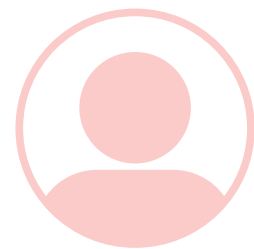


My Lessons Learned...

Career change into conservation.

Who Am I?

My name is Rebecca Hansell.
I am currently Junior Aquarist at Hastings Aquarium.
I am a part-time student, studying towards my BA (Hons) Environmental Studies with The Open University.



My Background

Leaving school, I originally trained and worked as an actor for 8 years, before changing my life in my mid-20s to work in the charity sector, then (now nearing 30) I have finally arrived in the conservation sector - and there have been plenty of life lessons along the way!



Lesson 1 - Embrace Passion

I landed my role as Junior Aquarist because of my passion. I knew that I loved to talk about the natural world and conservation topics, in my interview I ran with this enthusiasm and it paid off! Now, I have found my tribe and have found my way into the conservation sector.



Lesson 2 - Know Your Worth

Transferrable skills are key - I originally trained as an actor - this may seem unrelated to working with the natural world but it makes me uniquely qualified as a communicator. Know what makes you stand out and lean into it!



Lesson 3 - The Time Is Now

Make your own luck. I knew that I wanted to be in the conservation sector long before I got my foot in the door. I landed my first paid role in 2020, but since 2017 I have been actively blogging and volunteering wherever possible. There is always a step you can take.



Lesson 4 - Be Inspired

I live and breathe environmental news and updates. Find what gives you butterflies, engage in conversations, take an active interest. This will help you pave a path to the career that you are craving. Other people are amazing, use that!



Lesson 5 - Have Hope

I have faced many challenges to get to where I am. Not every day is easy and some days I have more hope than others, but overall, I know where I want to get to and what I want to achieve - and I am never going to arrive there without hope (and hard work!)



Lesson 6 - Fake It

...until you make it! Teach yourself, present yourself as the person you want to be. Say yes to the opportunity and figure it out later! I have done all these things and now I do actually know a few things!



Lesson 7 - Be Proud

I am proud of myself, I live by my own rules and I strive to put my best, most authentic, self forward every day - which isn't always easy! Be proud of the work you do and the morals you stand for. The world isn't perfect but if you are trying to make it a better place for everyone, then you are on the right track!



Lesson 8 - Share

Talk about your goals, remember you aren't alone. Have you changed career into the conservation sector? Or in you 20s or 30s? Share your thoughts and your story!

