

SOPHIE KLECKER

Doctoral Candidate

Luxembourg



What did you study?

BSc in mechanical engineering
MSc in biomedical engineering
(biomechanics)

Why are you passionate about science?

I think it is just amazing how you can discover and learn more and more to yet only find out that there is even more to discover and learn. But the first reason I am passionate about science, the reason I chose scientific studies is how science can help you understand the world around you. How does a car/a plane/a boat/a toaster work? Why do broken legs heal? Where does rain come from? ...

Brief description of your job/what are you working on right now:

I'm working towards the next industrial revolution: developing robot control algorithms which combine the robustness of machines with the learning adaptability of humans for the automation of un-ergonomic manufacturing tasks.

Have you always wanted to do the job you have now:

No: from playschool to the age of 25 when I started my current position, my dream jobs included i.a. air hostess, inventor, journalist and teacher.

What do you wish people knew about your job?

As doctoral candidates we are neither well-paid soon-to-be-Nobel laureates nor lazy students who just do not want to start working quite yet.

What's your favourite thing about your job:

The freedom to dive deeper into different topics (ranging from artificial intelligence over programming languages to machine ethics) and learn something new basically every day.

What inspired you?

To pursue a PhD?! Contributing to the improvement of society and the world, but also learning new things and seeing my name as an author on a scientific paper :)

Training (university/college/apprenticeship)

Delft University of Technology, Université de Liège, University of Luxembourg.

What were you like at a young age?

Curious and not interested in spending more than 15 minutes on one task, I was a nightmare for my kindergarten teacher.

What were your favourite subjects at school?

Physics and philosophy

Hobby:

Travelling, baking, yoga and ballet.

Favourite food:

Fruit and cake.

Weird fact:

I had to pass my driving licence four times.

Skill/Party trick:

I enter the party on a unicycle.

What would your autobiography be called:

I don't know yet :)

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