

- Am I challenged by the idea of applying basic scientific principles to understand the behavior of the atmosphere?
- Am I intrigued by the concept of using mathematics as a language to describe things that happen in the world around me?
- Do I enjoy science and math courses?
- Would I like to work with computers, satellites and other sophisticated research tools?
- Am I open to change?
- Do I like excitable work?
- There are no right or wrong answers, but all of these questions are closely related to the nature of modern meteorology and the challenges of our changing atmosphere.

Gender Equity

In the past, not many women have gone into careers in meteorology. Today, many rewarding career opportunities are open to anyone who has a good knowledge of meteorology and the ability to use it in atmospheric research or applied meteorology. In meteorology, as in many other professions, employers are actively recruiting women.

Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service

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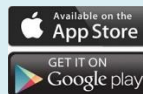
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Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service

A Day in the Life of a Meteorologist...



On a typical day a meteorologist's tasks might include:

- Delivering reports on current weather conditions and forecasts to a television or radio audience
- Reporting on weather or environmental events, for example blizzards, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, forest fires and eclipses, from remote locations
- Creating maps and graphics to illustrate weather conditions
- Issuing warnings about impending severe weather conditions

A Meteorologist's workday is anything but boring!

The weather does not sleep! A great example is the role of an aviation meteorologist. Pilots are flying at all times and they need to be kept abreast of weather information.

Most weather stations operate around the clock, 7 days a week which usually involve night, weekend, and holiday work, often with rotating shifts. During weather emergencies, such as hurricanes, meteorologists may work overtime. Operational meteorologists also are often under pressure to meet forecast deadlines. Meteorologists who are not involved in forecasting tasks work regular hours, usually in offices.



Preliminary Investigation at Start of Shift

- Before a meteorologist can effectively forecast and present the weather, he or she must analyze weather-related data to make sure he or she has a firm grasp on current atmospheric conditions and weather trends.
- Data is gathered from surface and upper air stations, satellites and radar equipment. Interpreting the data requires forward-looking skills since a meteorologist predicts both current and upcoming weather patterns.
- Most of the investigation is done using computers that are linked to satellites and weather stations. A weatherman spends most of the preliminary-forecast time analyzing statistical information and atmospheric changes.

Preparation of Forecasts

- Once sufficient data has been gathered and interpreted, a meteorologist (weatherman) uses graphics software to create local, regional and national maps and colorful charts to present atmospheric conditions, weather patterns, and temperature highs and lows.
- Graphic displays make it easier for users and TV viewers to understand local forecasts in preparation for outdoor activities and extreme weather conditions that might affect their area.

WOULD METEOROLOGY BE A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Here are some questions you may want to ask yourself if you are considering a career in meteorology:

- Am I curious about the world around me and why it is the way it is?
- Would I like to work in a field of science that has many important applications in human affairs such as warning others of hazardous weather or investigating the atmospheric forces that shape our weather and climate?

