



Surbjit Kaur is not your usual manager. She started her career as a research scientist at Imperial College London, where she completed a PhD in environmental epidemiology. She now works for EY as a management consultant, and the technical expertise and rigour she learned as a scientist has provided an unusual yet solid foundation both for her successful management career and her scholarship from Henley Business School.

I started off my career as a scientist and, as I gained increasing responsibility, I started going more and more down the management route. I felt I needed some form of accreditation to give me confidence that I could operate in this space, so I did a Level 5 Diploma in Management that gave me the stepping stone to move on to Chartered Manager status.

Having Chartered Manager on my CV helped me with my application for my MBA scholarship with the 30% Club and Henley Business School. I put it on the application form to demonstrate how important it is to me and, having won the scholarship, it is nice having it in my back pocket to give me the confidence that I deserve to be there.

The thing to remember is that people can collect qualifications, but it doesn't mean they can do the job. The great thing about Chartered Manager status is that it proves you've been there and done it, rather than having just done the theory.

The scientist

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