### SEVERE WEATHER METEOROLOGIST

Predicting severe storms. Salary: $53K - $137K (2014)



**PERSONAL DETAILS**

**Claire Yeo  
AGE: 25**

Claire developed a natural fascination with the weather as a kid growing up in northern NSW, where severe thunderstorms and floods are relatively regular.   
  
When she was 10, Claire decided to become a meteorologist. She chose maths and physics streams through school and majored in physics in her Bachelor of Science degree at RMIT in Melbourne. She went on to do honours at Melbourne University before gaining employment at the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), who sponsored her to complete a Graduate Diploma in Meteorology.   
  
Claire has been with the bureau for seven years and currently works in the bureau's Melbourne-based head office predicting when and how severe storms will strike.

**TRAINING:**

BSc from RMIT University in Melbourne, followed by honours and a Graduate Diploma in meteorology at Melbourne University.

**JOB PROSPECTS:**

The Bureau of Meteorology receives hundreds of applications each year and fills only 10 positions on average so competition for jobs is fierce.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**GREAT BITS:**

"I like the responsibility. I get off on knowing I have an indirect hand in protecting people provided they receive the message. I enjoy being the authority on severe weather."

**SUCKY PART:**

"It is nerve wracking knowing that if I don't make the right decision with the forecast it has implications in terms of fire agency personnel."

**WHAT IT INVOLVES:**

When Claire arrives at work she analyses the weather map to get an overview of current weather conditions. Severe weather forecasting involves going into a lot more detail in the forecast, including local effects and the topography in a particular forecast site. Claire has to be accurate with variables such as the timing of wind changes.   
  
For two-thirds of the year, Claire is on a roster for forecasting fire weather, checking for conditions conducive to wild fires, such as strong winds and high temperatures. She also trains fire agency staff in how to interpret BoM forecasts and deploy portable weather stations, and trains State Emergency Service staff in severe weather conditions.

**WANT THE JOB?**

**SUGGESTIONS:**

You need a strong scientific technical foundation while understanding the nature of international human rights law and norms.   
  
Statistics is a science and it requires a great deal of discipline and training.   
  
You need excellent skills in maths and statistics, the ability to be thorough in your work, good people skills and the ability to work as part of a team with a range of professionals in different countries.

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