

Maria Gordon



Dame Maria Gordon
Photo credit: Wachtler

Dame Maria Gordon was a Scottish geologist, paleontologist, and politician.

She was born in Aberdeenshire in 1864 and had lots of siblings (five brothers and two sisters!)

She started studying for a degree in science at Heriot-Watt College (which is now Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh), specialising in geology, botany, and zoology.

Working in the late 19th and early 20th century she was the first woman to earn a PhD from the University of Munich, championed new ideas surrounding the formation of the Dolomite Mountains in Italy and wrote more than 30 papers on geology.

While studying the geology in Italy, there were no good roads and the terrain was tricky so Maria taught herself how to rock-climb!



Some of the famous peaks of the Dolomite Mountains
Photo credit: Daniele Bonaldo

She loved fieldwork saying "the work was a joy and I look back on the days of expecting discovery at every corner as my happiest time". A truly inspirational scientist!

For more information about Maria click [here](#)



Maria was Vice President of the International Council of Women