



# Jocelyn Bell Burnell

As a girl in the 1940s in Northern Ireland, Jocelyn Bell Burnell's enthusiasm for the sciences was met with hostility from some teachers and fellow students. Undeterred, she went on to study radio astronomy at Glasgow University, where she was the only woman in many of her classes.

As a graduate student in 1967, Jocelyn Bell Burnell and her colleagues discovered unusual radio signals being emitted from space. The objects that create these signals came to be known as "pulsars," which are rapidly spinning, dense cores of dead stars created by supernova explosions. In 2018, Bell Burnell received the Breakthrough Award for her role in the discovery of pulsars, as well as her scientific leadership over the past 50 years. She announced that she will donate the majority of the \$3 million prize to fund students from underrepresented groups, including women and people of color, who are interested in becoming physics researchers.

