Postgraduate Certificate in Practical Science Communication

2021-2022

Course code: 2122PCB231

COURSE GUIDE

University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall, Cambridge, CB23 8AQ

Tel 01223 746222  www.ice.cam.ac.uk
Welcome to the Postgraduate Certificate in Practical Science Communication, a University of Cambridge award offered by the Institute of Continuing Education (ICE). The Certificate is taught and awarded at FHEQ level 7 (i.e. postgraduate level) and attracts 60 credits. It is completed in one academic year. For further information about academic credit please see our website: www.ice.cam.ac.uk/studying-with-us/information-for-students/qualifications-that-we-offer.

Science communication is an important part of scientific endeavour. Many scientific institutions and businesses see communicating science as part of their core mission. These missions cover a wide range of activity: in developing countries, for example, science communication not only supports the roll-out of new technologies to make people’s lives healthier and easier, but also contributes to campaigns to reduce exploitation and preserve the environment. In the industrialised West, science communication has become part of marketing for big business, fundraising for medical charities, and policymaking in areas such as agriculture, energy and transport. Scientific expertise provides the information for communication professionals; and, often, the experts themselves are being called on to communicate directly with the public.

This Postgraduate Certificate in Practical Science Communication is designed to support people working in contexts such as these. Students might be:

- Working as scientists and looking to extend their skill-set
- Working in science communication and looking for an opportunity to reflect and develop in a supportive environment
- Wanting to study science communication, but alongside their present commitments
- Looking to think about science and society in new ways.

The course focuses on the core skills and knowledge that bring science communication efficiently into the students’ repertoire of professional and life skills. Organised into day-schools, and accompanied by online distance learning, the course is delivered in three one-term units, and an indicative syllabus and a reading list for each of these units are included in this course specification.

There is a substantial literature in science communication, academic and practical. A full bibliography will be made available in the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) that will support the course. Doing some further reading will give students a broader range of tools, alert them to a wider variety of perspectives, and equip them with a deeper academic appreciation of the subject. Making reference to the literature will be essential for some if not all assessments. Students who are considering further study after their PG Cert are especially encouraged to read from the recommended lists. Other specific short readings will be recommended at the start of the course.

The extensive resources of the University Library will be accessible to students on this course, both in person and online. Students are advised to explore the Library’s iDiscover service before deciding to buy any study materials.
As the course develops over the year, students will find the VLE and online library resources increasingly useful, both for their own learning and for keeping in touch with classmates and tutors. It is worth spending some time learning how to use these resources early on in the course.

**The course aims to:**

- enhance the students’ systematic knowledge and critical understanding of the importance, relevance and diversity of science communication in the world.
- increase students’ understanding of the academic and theoretical knowledge that underpins effective communication and engagement, including fundamental issues and current debates in communication theory, sociology, politics, ethics, psychology and history of science.
- develop students’ ability to critically evaluate subject matter to identify what is relevant and appropriate for public communication.
- enable students to describe and critique key practical techniques and approaches used for science communication.
- create an enquiring perspective to enable critical and evaluative discussion that extends student understanding of key ethical and moral issues in the communication of science.
- develop an appropriate understanding of the available methods for communicating with and engaging new audiences with diverse professional, specialist and non-specialist backgrounds and to understand how and when to apply these methods.
- provide an understanding of the requirements and importance of science communication in terms of the Impact agenda in Higher Education.

The students will:

- gain discipline-specific skills for the delivery of a wide-range of science communication approaches.
- work constructively and sensitively with others in particular social and political contexts.
- gain skills for all stages of science communication activity, including designing, proposing, seeking funding for and evaluating the activity.
- respect audiences’ needs and interests and strive for social justice.
General skills for further study and employability

In general:

- The capacity for independent thought and judgement
- The development of independent learning, study and time-management skills
- The deployment of skills in critical reasoning
- The development of competence in using relevant IT
- The ability to work with others, productively and equitably
- The capacity to exercise some personal responsibility and demonstrate appropriate levels of motivation and personal commitment through part-time study.

Specifically, from studying science communication:

- Alertness to the workings, uses and effects of the mass media and other communication channels
- The capacity to use words, numbers and images to communicate meaningfully to a variety of audiences
- The ability to structure, express and deliver particular messages
- The ability to select and combine appropriate media for particular tasks
- The skill of finding stories and background information from professional, mass-media and live sources
- The ability to pitch an idea and persuade other agencies to support it
- The competence to plan, schedule and deliver a project, with respect for regulation, practical limitations and cultural sensitivities
- The ability to liaise with a range of professionals and publics
- The sensitivity to respond to a range of social needs, and to take responsibility for outcomes.

Study hours

The award of academic credit is a means of quantifying and recognising learning. In the UK, one credit notionally represents 10 hours of learning. Each of the units in this course attracts 15 credits so students should expect to need to study for approximately 150 hours in total to complete each unit successfully. However, it is recognised that students study at different paces and use a variety of approaches, so this is a recommendation, rather than a hard-and-fast requirement.

Some of these study hours will be taken up with small tasks in advance of certain classes, such as collecting science communication items, writing a short note about their personal experiences or expectations, or making a start on an original piece of science communication to share with the group. These tasks will not be credit-bearing but will equip the students to make best use of the course.
Assignments for credit play an important role in learning. Submission will be to pre-arranged deadlines and, where possible, online. For any problems with submission of assessment (such as illness or other personal problem), the procedure is as set out in the Institute’s student handbook, at www.ice.cam.ac.uk/info/student-handbook.


Teaching staff

Dr Jane Gregory (Course Director) developed science communication courses for Imperial College in the early 1990s, and since then has set up and taught UG and PG courses at Birkbeck, UCL and Manchester University. She has published on the role of public science communication in the development of scientific ideas, and on the global political and economic contexts for science communication. Jane has also worked in science publishing and for the Science Museum, London.

Dr Peter Broks has been examining the relationship between science and the public for over thirty years. He has built an international reputation for his work on cultural history and popular science with books and articles translated into French, Chinese, and Russian. He is the author of the book Understanding Popular Science (2007). Peter taught on the long-running science communication programme at the University of the West of England, and has recently completed a project on responsible innovation at the University of Rhine–Waal.

Dominic McDonald has been in science communication since the mid-1990s. He has worked in Learned Societies, museums, the civil service, and festivals, in the UK and across Europe, engaging a wide range of audiences with science. His experience also includes running citizen science events, freelancing at science festivals, developing adult learning programmes, training researchers, and performing science comedy.

Specialist professional teaching is delivered by guest tutors. In previous years, these have included:

Jack Ashby, Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge
Craig Brierley, Research Communication Office, University of Cambridge
Dr Nicola Buckley, Centre for Science and Policy, University of Cambridge
Dr Steve Cross, Bright Club/Science Showoff
Dr Kieron Flanagan, Manchester Institute of Innovation Research
Greg Foot, broadcaster
Dr Eric Jensen, University of Warwick
Elizabeth Killen, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge
Anthony Lewis, Lancet
Dr Simon Lock, University College London
Ed Prosser, social media consultant
Dr Chris Smith, the Naked Scientist, University of Cambridge
Lucinda Spokes, Public Engagement Office, University of Cambridge
Dr Ed Turner, Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge
Administrative staff

Head of Academic Centre Administration: Ms Gillian Barclay, t. 01223 760063

Academic Centre Coordinator: Ms Lizzie Burgess, t. 01223 760864

Email: pg-stem@ice.cam.ac.uk

Venue

Madingley Hall is the University’s campus dedicated to continuing education for adults. The Hall was built in the sixteenth century and acquired by the University in 1948. It has been home to the Institute of Continuing Education since 1975.

Classes will be taught in one of 14 classrooms at Madingley Hall and, occasionally, at other venues. Classrooms are arranged and equipped to encourage effective small group learning and peer interaction. Technology-enhanced learning, including lecture capture where appropriate, is used in many classes, and wi-fi is available throughout the site. We also provide a range of social learning spaces that students can use before, or after, class.

Seven acres of superb gardens and grounds designed by Capability Brown provide space to think, reflect and relax. We offer a range of catering including formal dining, sandwiches and snacks, and a full-service bar. Students travelling a long distance may wish to book accommodation in one of the Hall's 62 en-suite bedrooms.

The Hall is situated three miles west of Cambridge with easy access from the M11 and the A14. There is ample free on-site car parking. Central London and Stansted Airport can be reached in under an hour by train from Cambridge railway station. Taxis from the railway station to Madingley Hall typically take around 20-25 minutes. Full directions are given on our website at: http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/about-us/how-find-us.

Contact details of ICE

Institute of Continuing Education
University of Cambridge
Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge CB23 8AQ
T: 01223 746222
Please also refer to the ‘information for students’ section on ICE’s website [www.ice.cam.ac.uk/studying-with-us/information-for-students](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/studying-with-us/information-for-students) and the 21/22 Student Handbook for award-bearing courses for further information and guidance relating to all aspects of the course including study skills, assignments, assessment and moderation. The Course Information and Help and Guidance section of the ICE VLE will also contain valuable information specific to your course.

*Information correct as at 7 January 2021*
Unit 1

The fundamentals of practical science communication

Start date 20 October 2021
Day 20 – 22 October 2021
Venue Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge, CB23 8AQ
Tutor(s) Dr Jane Gregory

End date 22 October 2021
Time 9.30 – 17.00 each day
No of meetings One 3-day course

*Please note that teaching dates and venue for this unit are provisional and may be subject to change in accordance with government/University guidelines

Aims

This unit will prepare the ground for students’ later practical work by:

- Providing students with the academic tools to handle the theoretical, historical and practical aspects of science communication.
- Developing knowledge and understanding of science communication, its methods and impacts.
- Instilling the ethical and critical awareness required to identify the importance, the relevance, and the problems of science communication from a professional perspective.

Indicative content

- **The history and politics of science communication**: what is it and whom does it serve? Developing an understanding of what science communication is and why it is important; connections with the Impact agenda in Higher Education.
- **Understanding audiences**: what happens to your message? The psychology and theory of effective engagement and communication.
- **Effective communication**: Identifying, understanding and engaging your audience; the use of storytelling and narrative; key skills for science communication.
- **Science and the media**: roles, responsibilities and interests.
- **Why communicate what science and to whom?** Critical evaluation of science – choosing stories and approaches, and the ethical elements of science communication.
• **Becoming a critical consumer of science communication**: how to see, and what to learn.
• **Effective evaluation: how did it go?** The design, delivery and success measures of science communication.

**Presentation of the unit**

Across the three days, the course will move from content delivery via lectures and seminars to participation in workshops and performances.

Students are expected to contribute to all sessions, including asking questions during lectures and contributing examples from their own experience. Some students embrace this style of learning more readily than some others, who may take their time to settle in.

Participation is essential for each student’s learning as well as for learning across the group. One important form of participation is listening: students will listen respectfully to others’ contributions and offer constructive criticism when appropriate.

It is usual in science communication studies to consider a range of worldviews, standpoints and understandings. Therefore, disagreement and argument are normal aspects of engagement with this subject, both within the University and beyond. It is important for both students and professional communicators to develop the skills to disagree and argue courteously and constructively.

During this unit students will begin working on small items of science communication (such as short articles, designs, or short recordings) that will be subject to formative assessment and will be credited at the end of the course as part of the Portfolio.
## Provisional lecture list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Further reading/preparation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30-10.00</td>
<td>Meet the class; how the course works</td>
<td>Dr Jane Gregory</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00-11.00</td>
<td>The history and politics of science</td>
<td>Dr Jane Gregory</td>
<td>Gregory and Lock (2008) ‘The evolution of ‘Public Understanding of Science’</td>
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<td></td>
<td>communication</td>
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<td>Gregory and Miller (2000) <em>Science in Public</em></td>
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<td>Trench and Bucchi (2008) <em>Handbook</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00-11.15</td>
<td>Refreshment break</td>
<td></td>
<td>Irwin and Wynne (1996) <em>Misunderstanding Science</em></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bell et al. (2008) <em>Science and its Publics</em></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Broks (2006) <em>Understanding Popular Science</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.15-12.30</td>
<td>Studying science communication</td>
<td>Dr Jane Gregory</td>
<td>Hilgartner (1990) <em>The dominant view</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Public Understanding of Science</em> (2014)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Special issue: Public engagement in science, 23(1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30-13.00</td>
<td>ICE services and procedures</td>
<td>Dr Tom Monie and Lizzie Burgess</td>
<td>C. Thorpe and J. Gregory (2010), Producing the Post-Fordist Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.00-14.00</td>
<td>Lunch (Dining Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00-15.15</td>
<td>Science and the media and the network society</td>
<td>Dr Jane Gregory</td>
<td>Balnaves et al. (2008) <em>Media Theories and Approaches</em></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Allan (2002) <em>Media, Risk and Science</em></td>
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<td>Bauer and Bucchi (2007) <em>Journalism, Science and Society</em></td>
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<td>Harcup (2015), <em>Journalism: Principles and Practice</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.15-15.30</td>
<td>Refreshment break</td>
<td></td>
<td>McNair (2000) <em>Journalism and Democracy</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.30-17.00</td>
<td>Newswriting workshop</td>
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<td>Wagner (2008) <em>The New Invisible College</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Thursday 21 October**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
<th>References</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.00-11.15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15-13.00</td>
<td>Metaphors and signs</td>
<td>Dr Jane Gregory</td>
<td>Lakoff &amp; Johnson (1980) <em>Metaphors</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.00-14.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00-16.00</td>
<td>What is effective communication? Engaging critically with science communication: examples and tools</td>
<td>Dr Jane Gregory and Dr Peter Broks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(includes break)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00-17.00</td>
<td>Introducing effects and evaluation</td>
<td>Dr Peter Broks</td>
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**Friday 22 October**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.15-13.00</td>
<td>Critical consumption: students perform, share and critique with the group</td>
<td>Peer-led</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00-15.00</td>
<td>Reflection and setting assessment</td>
<td>Dr Jane Gregory</td>
<td>Reflection and setting assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00-17.00</td>
<td>Critical consumption cont.</td>
<td>Peer-led</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Departure</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Student assessment

There are two summative assignments associated with the unit. Note that they are not equally weighted. Assignment dates are provisional and may be subject to change.

The first assignment will be a critical analysis of two items of science communication (1500 – 2000 words / 10 credits).

Closing date for the submission of assignment 1: Friday 12 November 2021 by 12:00 (noon) GMT

The second assignment will be a reflective piece on the student’s own learning about science communication during this unit (800 – 1000 words / 5 credits).

Closing date for the submission of assignment 2: Friday 26 November 2021 by 12:00 (noon) GMT

Students should submit their assignments online through ICE’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Feedback on assignments is delivered online via the VLE.

Learning outcomes

When they have completed the unit, the students should have achieved the following outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of the role and application of theory to science communication practice
- Increased understanding of the political contexts that frame science communication
- Improved awareness of the academic literature that supports effective communication and engagement
- Improved understanding of how the needs of audiences frame science communication practice
- Insight into potential audiences
- Enhanced systematic knowledge and critical understanding of the significance, relevance and range of science communication in the global community
- Enhanced ability to critically evaluate subject matter to identify what could or should be reported in the public domain

Skills and other attributes
• Improved communication skills across a range of areas as well as in a specific area of interest
• Enhanced ability to match skills to media and audiences

**Reading and resource list**

*Public Understanding of Science* (2014), Special issue: Public engagement in science, 23(1)
S. Watts https://www.nature.com/news/society-needs-more-than-wonder-to-respect-science-1.15012

*Public Understanding of Science* (2014), Special issue: Public engagement in science, 23(1)
S. Watts https://www.nature.com/news/society-needs-more-than-wonder-to-respect-science-1.15012
Unit 2

The art of practical science communication

Start date 13 January 2022  
End date 11 March 2022

Days 13 and 14 January 2022  
3 and 4 February 2022  
10 and 11 March 2022

Time 9.30-17.00 each day

Venue Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge, CB23 8AQ

Tutors Dr Jane Gregory & guest tutors

No of meetings Three 2-day teaching blocks

*Please note that teaching dates and venue for this unit are provisional and may be subject to change in accordance with government/University guidelines

Aims

This module will develop students’ capacity for competent professional practice by:

- Developing students’ competence in the core skills of writing and speaking.
- Encouraging adaptability towards a range of new and traditional media, with an emphasis on radio and podcasting.
- Using feedback and dialogue to respond to audience needs and preferences.
- Instilling respect for, and knowledge of, the legal, ethical and policy contexts that frame science communication practice.

Indicative content

- **Core skills of writing and speaking**: developing confidence, technique, and exploring the demands of different media and audiences.
- **Communicating in museums**: display, explaining, interactivity, informal education, visitor studies, hard to reach groups.
- **Public events**: meanings of ‘public’, communicating in public spaces, understanding festivals.
- **Broadcasting in sound and vision**: television, video, radio, podcasting.
- **Online communication**: visual and written content on the web; the challenge of the hyperlink; adapting to new media, such as YouTube, vlogging and Tweeting; communication in the ‘network society’.

- **Science journalism**: forms: news, features, comment; interviewing; public relations.

- **Communicating science for policy**: advice, activism, science for charities and interest groups.

**Presentation of the unit**

This unit will respond to the range of interests of the cohort. It combines background information and techniques explained by tutors with students’ active participation in workshops to develop their skills.

Students will, individually or in small groups, develop projects that illustrate and exhibit their knowledge and understanding of science communication practice. They will take on supporting roles in other students’ projects, and also act as ‘critical friends’ to classmates. A series of ‘showcase’ sessions will allow students to present their work to the group.

Students will study a range of techniques, media and audiences, although they may choose for assessment to focus on a more specific task or area.

Students will learn from tutors and visiting specialist professionals and will scrutinise successful examples of science in the public domain to learn about professional standards and good practice.

Organisations that present science in public usually publish documents about their work such as mission statements, planning documents, accounts, visitor feedback and so on. Students are encouraged to read this ‘grey’ literature, which is usually readily available online.
## Provisional lecture list (all dates are provisional and may be subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Thursday 13 January 2022</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Further reading / preparation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30-10.30</td>
<td>Introduction to science museums</td>
<td>Dr Jane Gregory</td>
<td>Visit museums and science centres. Bradburne Dawson MacGregor</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30 – 13.00</td>
<td>Collection and display: the challenges of natural objects. Site visit to a museum</td>
<td>Guest tutor</td>
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<td>Lunchn</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00 -16.30</td>
<td>Introduction to research communication: how research becomes news</td>
<td>Guest tutor</td>
<td>Consume mass media; collect press releases for comparison. Balnaves, <em>et al.</em> Harcup Bauer and Bucchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.30-17.00</td>
<td>Briefing for tomorrow</td>
<td>Guest tutor</td>
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</tbody>
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### Friday 14 January 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Thursday 14 January 2022</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Further reading / preparation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30 – 10.30</td>
<td>Introduction to radio and podcast journalism Making a programme Distributing podcasts</td>
<td>Guest tutor</td>
<td>Cohen Jones</td>
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<td>10.30-11.00</td>
<td>Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00-12.00</td>
<td>Interviewing</td>
<td>Guest tutor</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 -13.00</td>
<td>Students work in project groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00 -14.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00 – 16.00</td>
<td>Students work on projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00 -17.00</td>
<td>Performance and critique</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30-10.30</td>
<td>Museum showcase</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00-13.00</td>
<td>Science festivals: challenges and opportunities</td>
<td>Guest tutor</td>
<td>Jensen and Buckley (2014) Why people attend science festivals</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00-14.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00-17.00</td>
<td>Communicating online: challenges and opportunities</td>
<td>Guest tutor</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30-10.30</td>
<td>Journalism showcase</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00-17.00</td>
<td>Television and video: forms and professions</td>
<td>Guest tutor</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30-10.30</td>
<td>Events showcase</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30-17.30</td>
<td>Science communication for policy, activism and the third sector</td>
<td>Guest tutor</td>
<td>Wilsdon and Willis (2004). See-through Science</td>
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<td>Harcup (2015), Journalism: Principles and Practice</td>
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<td>Bauer and Bucchi (2007) Journalism</td>
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<td>Current parliamentary Research Briefings, POST Notes, and similar grey literature from other agencies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Student assessment

There are two summative assignments associated with the unit and they are equally weighted. Assignment dates are provisional and may be subject to change.

The first assignment is a written insight or overview into a science communication tool or approach (1200 -1500 /7.5 credits).

The second assignment is a talk or video (featuring a performance by the student) delivered on 25 April 2022 (7.5 credits).

Closing date for the submission of written assignments: Friday 1st April 2022 by 12:00 (noon) British Summer Time

Students are expected to submit their assignments online through ICE’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and feedback on assignments is delivered online.

Learning outcomes

When the students have completed the course, they should have achieved the following outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- Improved awareness of the academic literature that supports effective communication and engagement
• Improved understanding of how the needs of audiences frame science communication practice
• Enhanced knowledge and understanding of pitching, proposing and evaluating science communication
• Increased ability to understand and respond to local schedules and regulation
• Awareness of professional and public standards
• Awareness of capacities and limits of given resources
• Insight into potential audiences

Skills and other attributes

• Advanced competence in the core skills of writing and speaking
• Enhanced familiarity with audio-visual and digital technology
• Enhanced capacity to be a critical friend to others’ work
• Enhanced ability to match skills to media and audiences
• Enhanced adaptable skills for the delivery of a wide range of science communication approaches to a variety of audiences.

Reading and resource list

I. Hargreaves (2003), Journalism: Truth or Dare? (Oxford UP).


Unit 3

Designing and delivering practical science communication

Start date 25 April 2022  
End date 20 June 2022  
Day 25 April 2022  
End date 20 June 2022  
Venue Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge, CB23 8AQ  
No of meetings 4 day-schools  
Tutor(s) Jane Gregory, Dominic McDonald

*Please note that teaching dates and venue for this unit are provisional and may be subject to change in accordance with government/University guidelines

Aims

This module will develop and demonstrate students’ competence in science communication practice by:

- supporting the students in designing and planning a science communication event or product to the standards of public communication
- encouraging and rewarding adherence to timetables, regulation, custom and practice
- exercising and developing the students’ skills in evaluation
- developing competence in teamwork and mutual support

Indicative content

- pitching and proposing science communication activities
- preparation: research, organisation, scheduling and rehearsing
- delivery: performance and supporting materials and equipment
- evaluation: critical responses to one’s own and others’ work

Presentation of the unit
By this stage of the programme, students will be working on individual projects. They will have access to face-to-face and online tutorials as appropriate while they develop their project. The day-schools will be occasions for sharing problems and trying out strategies with the group, as well as providing an opportunity for charting progress and setting standards. The day-schools will be scheduled in detail once the projects are chosen: they may lend themselves to sub-groups having specialist further training, or reveal gaps in the teaching so far that can now be filled. The tutors will therefore be responsive to student needs, with the core aim of readying the class for assessment by the end of the unit. Students will be rehearsing in front of classmates, commenting on other students’ work, and organising themselves for their final performance.

Provisional lecture list (all dates are provisional and may be subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 25 April 2022</th>
<th>Preparation/reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30-10.00</td>
<td>Introduction to the unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00-13.00</td>
<td>Assessment of talks from Unit 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00-16.00</td>
<td>Assessment of talks from Unit 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.00-17.00</td>
<td>Preparing your pitch and proposal</td>
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<tr>
<th>Monday 9 May 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00-17.00</td>
<td>Assessment: Pitching your idea</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 6 June 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00-10.30</td>
<td>Thorny topics in funding, delivery and evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00-17.00</td>
<td>Rehearsals, teamwork and tutorials</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monday 20 June 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30-17.00</td>
<td>Performance: sharing your project with the group</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Student assessment

Students will be assessed summatively using a reflective and critical account of the pitching, production, delivery and evaluation of an event or activity. (15 credits).

Assignment dates are provisional and may be subject to change.

Closing date for the submission of assignments: Monday 11 July 2022 by 12:00 (noon) British Summer Time

Students are expected to submit their assignments online through ICE’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and feedback on assignments is delivered online.

Learning outcomes

When they have completed this unit, the students should have achieved the following outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

• Improved understanding of how the needs of audiences frame science communication practice
• Enhanced knowledge and understanding of pitching, proposing and evaluating science communication
• Increased ability to understand and respond to local schedules and regulation
• Awareness of professional and public standards
• Awareness of capacities and limits of given resources
• Insight into potential audiences
• Enhanced capacity for critical and evaluative discussion that extends understanding of key ethical and moral issues in science communication
• Improved decision-making about which methods to use for reaching a wider range of audiences, and for which purposes.

Skills and other attributes

• Advanced competence in the core skills of writing and speaking
• Competence in proposing and pitching a science communication project
• Enhanced capacity to be a critical friend to others’ work
• Enhanced ability to match skills to media and audiences
• Demonstrated capacity to design, implement and evaluate a science communication activity from start to finish
• Improved ability to plan, organise and deliver on time.

Reading and resource list

Students will have the opportunity to compile their own reading list and gather resources as needed, depending on their choice of project.
Portfolio

Student assessment

In addition to the unit assignments, students will be required to submit a portfolio of science communication items (15 credits). These items should not have been submitted for credit elsewhere during the course, but might include, for example, a critical review of an item submitted for credit earlier in the course. Items from the students’ workplace are also eligible, provided due credit is given to any other contributors. The portfolio should show a wide range of skills, and so should include a minimum of two items related to each unit (800-1000 words per unit). Assignment dates are provisional and may be subject to change.

Closing date for the submission of the portfolio: Monday 11 July 2022 by 12:00 (noon) British Summer Time

Students are expected to submit their assignments online through ICE’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), and feedback on assignments is delivered online via the VLE.

Learning outcomes

The Portfolio contains a selection of the student’s own work that is not submitted for assessment elsewhere on the programme. The learning outcomes are therefore particular to each student, and are likely to reflect the learning outcomes across the programme. These outcomes could include:

Knowledge and understanding

- Advanced competence in the core skills of writing and speaking
- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of the role and application of theory to science communication practice
- Increased understanding of the political contexts that frame science communication
- Improved awareness of the academic literature that supports effective communication and engagement
- Improved understanding of how the needs of audiences frame science communication practice
- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of pitching, proposing and evaluating science communication
- Increased ability to understand and respond to local schedules and regulation
- Awareness of professional and public standards
- Awareness of capacities and limits of given resources
- Insight into potential audiences
- Enhanced systematic knowledge and critical understanding of the significance, relevance and range of science communication in the global community
- Enhanced ability to critically evaluate subject matter to identify what could or should be reported in the public domain
• Enhanced capacity for critical and evaluative discussion that extends understanding of key ethical and moral issues in science communication
• Improved decision-making about which methods to use for reaching a wider range of audiences, and for which purposes.

Skills and other attributes

• Advanced competence in the core skills of writing and speaking
• Improved communication skills across a range of areas as well as in a specific area of interest
• Enhanced familiarity with audio-visual and digital technology
• Competence in proposing and pitching a science communication project
• Enhanced capacity to be a critical friend to others’ work
• Enhanced ability to match skills to media and audiences
• Demonstrated capacity to design, implement and evaluate a science communication activity from start to finish
• Enhanced adaptable skills for the delivery of a wide range of science communication approaches to a variety of audiences.
• Improved ability to plan, organise and deliver on time.
# TIMETABLE

## Michaelmas 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wednesday 20 October 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thursday 21 October 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Friday 22 October 2021</td>
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## Lent 2022

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thursday 13 January 2022</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Friday 14 January 2022</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Thursday 3 February 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Friday 4 February 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Thursday 10 March 2022</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Friday 11 March 2022</td>
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## Easter 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Monday 25 April 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Monday 9 May 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Monday 6 June 2022</td>
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