

# PX376-15 Communicating Science

**24/25**

**Department**

Physics

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Michael Pounds

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

Employers look for many things in would-be employees. Sometimes they will be looking for specific knowledge, but often they will be interested in more general skills. One such skill is the ability to communicate effectively with an audience. This module will help to you develop your ability to present to, and interact with, audiences with different levels of understanding of the background science.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

To provide experience in communicating scientific material to a variety of audiences

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

You will analyse short articles in a number of scientific publications of different levels to see how the selection of material and style of writing has to be tailored to suit the intended audience. You will be asked to prepare a number of communication pieces, including a summary sheet, a talk

and a poster presentation. These will be assessed for the accuracy of the science, the appropriateness of the level of the presentation and how well you interact with your audiences. The module will also include some group working.

Information for the assignments will be readily available from journals, such as Scientific American, Physics Today and New Scientist, academic staff and the internet.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Present scientific material to, and interact with, groups with different levels of understanding of the background science
- Give and receive peer-to-peer feedback

## Indicative reading list

There are no specific scientific texts. Use will be made of material in standard undergraduate texts, articles in journals such as New Scientist, Physics World and Scientific American, and resources available on the internet.

For written English: D. Hacker, A Pocket Style Manual (3rd ed.), Bedford/St. Martin's

## Interdisciplinary

Interdisciplinary studies almost always involve collaboration between people with different backgrounds. Everyone must be able to communicate with people who have other areas of expertise to their own. In this module, students present scientific ideas in ways appropriate to different audiences. They also develop their ability to listen to their audience and encourage the engagement of their audience with the issues involved.

## Subject specific skills

Ability to explain results and ideas from science to different audiences

## Transferable skills

Analytical, collaborative, communication, group working, organisational, self-study

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	10 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
Total	150 hours

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>
Private study	130 hours (87%)
Total	150 hours

## **Private study description**

Wider reading on a range of scientific topics, discussing with others taking the module, drafting written work, listening to presentations by other students, preparing an oral presentation and poster

## **Costs**

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## **Assessment**

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### **Assessment group A2**

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>
Coursework	100%	
Written work + presentations		

### **Feedback on assessment**

Written and oral feedback from markers

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## **Availability**

### **Courses**

This module is Core for:

- UPXA-GF13 Undergraduate Mathematics and Physics (BSc)
  - Year 3 of GF13 Mathematics and Physics
  - Year 3 of GF13 Mathematics and Physics
- Year 4 of UPXA-GF14 Undergraduate Mathematics and Physics (with Intercolated Year)
- UPXA-F300 Undergraduate Physics (BSc)
  - Year 3 of F300 Physics
  - Year 3 of F300 Physics
  - Year 3 of F300 Physics

- Year 3 of UPXA-F303 Undergraduate Physics (MPhys)
- Year 4 of UPXA-F301 Undergraduate Physics (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of UCHA-4 Undergraduate Chemistry (with Intercalated Year) Variants
- Year 3 of UCHA-3 Undergraduate Chemistry 3 Year Variants
- UCHA-F107 Undergraduate Master of Chemistry (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 3 of F107 MChem Chemistry (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of F107 MChem Chemistry (with Intercalated Year)
- UCHA-F109 Undergraduate Master of Chemistry (with International Placement)
  - Year 3 of F109 MChem Chemistry (with International Placement)
  - Year 3 of F109 MChem Chemistry (with International Placement)
  - Year 3 of F111 MChem Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry (with International Placement)
- UCHA-4M Undergraduate Master of Chemistry Variants
  - Year 3 of F105 Chemistry
  - Year 3 of F109 MChem Chemistry (with International Placement)
  - Year 3 of F109 MChem Chemistry (with International Placement)
  - Year 3 of F126 MChem Chemistry with Med Chem (with Prof Exp)
  - Year 3 of F125 MChem Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry
  - Year 3 of F106 MChem Chemistry with Professional Experience
- UCHA-F127 Undergraduate Master of Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 3 of F127 MChem Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry (with intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of F127 MChem Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry (with intercalated year)