

LF249-15 Science and Public Engagement

26/27

Department

Life Sciences

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Sophie Martucci

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Public engagement in science is vital for fostering an informed society that makes better decisions about health, the environment, and technology. It builds trust in scientific research, inspires future scientists and enhances scientific literacy. Public support can influence policy decisions and funding for research. Additionally, effective communication helps combat misinformation and overall, it creates a more informed, curious, and supportive society. This module will consider the skills underpinning designing, planning, delivering and evaluating public engagement activities based on scientific topics; ultimately leading to students delivering and evaluating their own group public engagement activity.

Module aims

To develop skills in designing, planning, delivering, evaluating and reflecting on public engagement activities based on scientific topics.

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.

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Sessions will be run as interactive seminars focussing on skill development including discussion, structured activities and preparation for assessment. These sessions will cover:

Introduction to Public Engagement

Public Engagement in Museums

Idea Generation Workshop

Training to Pitch

Evaluation of Public Engagement

Social Media and Public Engagement

Reflecting on Skill Development

Learning outcomes

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

- Design and plan a science-based public engagement activity by applying relevant theoretical frameworks, taking into account audience needs, inclusivity, ethical considerations, and practical constraints.
- Deliver and evaluate a science-based public engagement activity, using appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative methods to assess its effectiveness and impact.
- Reflect on personal and professional skill development in relation to public engagement practice, identifying strengths, areas for improvement, and actions to support further development.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

Communication skills: to explain complex scientific concepts in an accessible and engaging manner.

Public Speaking skills: presenting to diverse audiences, both in-person and through digital platforms.

Writing and Content Creation: crafting creative public engagement activities which effectively communicate scientific ideas.

Evaluation and Feedback: assessing the impact of public engagement activities and using feedback to improve skill development.

Transferable skills

Teamwork

Communication
Critical thinking
Self Awareness
Intercultural awareness
Professionalism
Digital Literacy

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Other activity	6 hours (4%)
Private study	74 hours (49%)
Assessment	50 hours (33%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Developing the public engagement activity. Preparing for workshops. Reflecting on skill development. Completing coursework.

Other activity description

Delivering the public engagement activity

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

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

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Project Pitch	50%	20 hours	No

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
A presentation of your group project idea for the public engagement activity.			
Reflective Essay	50%	30 hours	Yes (extension)
A reflection of an individual's skill development and evaluation of their public engagement activity feedback and delivery.			

Assessment group R1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Presentation of Public Engagement Activity and Reflective Viva	100%		No
Presentation of a public engagement activity with questions aiding reflection for choices made and skills used.			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback given to individual students. Assessment guidance such as rubrics will be used with additional comments. The guidance will be shared with students in advance of the assessment completion window.

Availability

Anti-requisite modules

If you take this module, you cannot also take:

- IL036-15 Public Engagement

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UBSA-C700 Undergraduate Biochemistry
- ULFA-C1A2 Undergraduate Biochemistry (MBio)
 - Year 2 of C1A2 Biochemistry
 - Year 2 of C700 Biochemistry
- Year 2 of ULFA-C702 Undergraduate Biochemistry (with Placement Year)
- Year 2 of ULFA-C1A6 Undergraduate Biochemistry with Industrial Placement (MBio)
- Year 2 of UBSA-3 Undergraduate Biological Sciences
- Year 2 of ULFA-C1A1 Undergraduate Biological Sciences (MBio)
- Year 2 of ULFA-C113 Undergraduate Biological Sciences (with Placement Year)

- Year 2 of ULFA-C1A5 Undergraduate Biological Sciences with Industrial Placement (MBio)
- Year 2 of UBSA-C1B9 Undergraduate Biomedical Science
- ULFA-C1A3 Undergraduate Biomedical Science (MBio)
 - Year 2 of C1A3 Biomedical Science
 - Year 2 of C1B9 Biomedical Science
- Year 2 of ULFA-C1A7 Undergraduate Biomedical Science with Industrial Placement (MBio)
- Year 2 of ULFA-CB18 Undergraduate Biomedical Science with Placement Year
- Year 2 of ULFA-B140 Undergraduate Neuroscience (BSc)
- Year 2 of ULFA-B142 Undergraduate Neuroscience (MBio)
- Year 2 of ULFA-B143 Undergraduate Neuroscience (with Industrial Placement) (MBio)
- Year 2 of ULFA-B141 Undergraduate Neuroscience (with Placement Year) (BSc)