

Developing your skills

This course (SH804) will help you to:

- develop an understanding of how and why science is communicated in the information age
- develop skills in the study of contemporary science communication
- consider ways in which contemporary communication of scientific information influences scientific citizenship.

This is a 60 point course that you can take on its own as professional development or count towards our MSc in Science and Society, Postgraduate Diploma in Science and Society, or MSc in Science.

In order to receive the Postgraduate Diploma in Science and Society, you should also take the complementary 60-point course: SEH806 *Contemporary issues in science learning*.

To receive the MSc in Science and Society you will need to study SEH806 and complete a 60 point project-based course.



Find out more

Visit

www.openuniversity.co.uk/communicating-science

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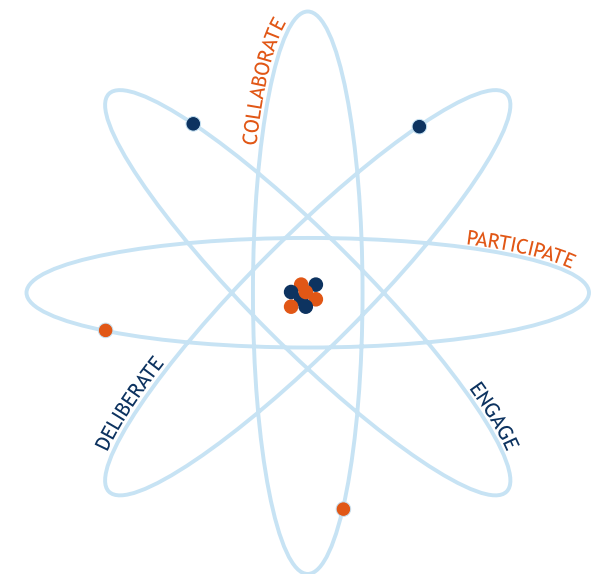
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The Open
University

Communicating science in the information age

Postgraduate course (SH804)



Introducing the course

The Open University is a world leader in distance learning. Our research is also renowned within and beyond the UK with more than 50 per cent of the University's research rated as 'internationally excellent' and 'world-leading' in a recent higher education-wide study.

In studying this course you will consider a number of concepts relevant to contemporary science communication, including ideas about 'upstream public engagement with science and technology', 'public service broadcasting', 'open access' and 'political economy of media'.

The course examines 'traditional' and 'emerging' media forms, e.g. communicating scientific information via meetings or as part of science centre and museum exhibitions, through to peer reviewed papers, popular science books, broadcast news and documentaries, magazine radio programmes and Web 2.0 technologies.

The course uses a range of media to teach and learn about these issues, making use of some of the traditional and emerging media forms that are examined in the materials. As a student of the course you therefore have some level of choice over where, when and via which media you study.

What you'll study

The course contains five blocks of work spread over 34 weeks between February and October.

Block 1 gives you your first look at how science is currently communicated, comparing these with some high-profile historical examples.

Block 2 illustrates how scientists communicate with other scientists through a range of traditional and digital media. You will see how this communication forms the basis of the documentation of scientific knowledge.

Block 3 examines scientists communicating primarily with non-scientists, e.g. in settings such as science centres, popular science books and during public engagement activities.

Block 4 asks how science is represented in a range of popular media (television, radio, newspapers) and examines the future of public service broadcasting in relation to the sciences.

Block 5 considers the ways in which research in science communication is conducted.

You will have an opportunity to assess your postgraduate information literacy skills, and both develop and put them into practice throughout the course.

Getting started

The course is essential professional development for anyone with an interest in how the sciences are communicated, whether you work in academia, industry, as a professional science communicator, teacher, etc. The course will also be of interest to anyone with a general interest in how scientific information circulates in the public sphere.

The course is open to students living and working within and outside the UK. We strongly recommend that you can achieve an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of at least seven.

To register for this course you must, usually, hold a qualification equivalent to a UK honours degree. Within the MSc in Science your degree should be in a science subject. However, a relevant honours degree such as communications, museum or media studies, or science education, or awards in the history, philosophy or sociology of science, may be acceptable if you are planning to count the course towards the Science and Society awards.

The Open University now has a Student Budget Account (www.open.ac.uk/ousba). This is a convenient way to pay your course fees. The Open University will require payment in full, but if you charge your fees to OUSBA you can 'Register Now – Pay Later'.

