

WAYFINDING

Career journeys to Oxford
Medical Sciences

I moved back to England and worked in Widening Access-supporting school students from under-represented backgrounds

Now I work in Public Engagement and Communications at the MRC WIMM, communicating science to different audiences

I moved to Australia to do a doctorate in evolutionary biology

I joined a Science Centre as a Science Performer and Tour Manager

I did a Master's research project in evolutionary biology at a museum and loved it

I took some time out from my studies due to my dyslexia

After graduating I did a Master's in reproductive and developmental biology

I applied for funding and took part in summer programmes to see which I preferred from archaeology, biological research or primatology

At school I studied German, psychology and biology at A-Level because I enjoyed a range of subjects

At university I studied biology and anthropology

What does a Public Engagement and Communications Officer do?

My role has two parts; communicating the scientific research done at the institute; and supporting public engagement projects which inform, inspire, consult, and work with the public. The MRC WIMM covers a lot of research areas, so I am often sharing research across haematology, immunology or cancer research.

No two days are the same, and in any one day I can be working with the press office on a press release, updating the website, writing a news item or working with a researcher to evaluate a school activity.

What advice would you give someone exploring their career path?

The job that I am doing now didn't exist ten years ago. Be prepared that new sectors, jobs and opportunities will emerge.

Some jobs do require specific training or knowledge, and it can be helpful to look into these requirements. However, key transferrable skills can be gained through jobs, volunteering, or hobbies. Actively seek out information on careers you are interested in, but also pursue your other interests- it is all useful!

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