

Students in Public exemplar details

Faculty, School and Subject Area: School of Biological Sciences, FBMH

Course Unit/activity: BIOL31230 Science Media project

Course Unit Director/activity leader: Sheena Cruikshank; final year students working with a named supervisor

What is the assignment/knowledge product?

E.g. a creative piece for younger audiences to illustrate what an allergy is, and some of the ideas as to why they occur

Why was it introduced?

Allergies are increasing in the UK population and there are many ideas as to why- there is a large citizen science project (Britain Breathing) that is investigating this. Britain Breathing is a cross faculty project done in partnership with the British Society for Immunology and Royal Society of Biology. lead by the supervisor who wished to have a body of resources on the allergy topic that were aimed for younger audiences. The comic is also supplemented by additional resources for adult learners that the Britain Breathing team already had and face to face games we do when at festivals and events.

Where is/could it be published?

It will be used on the Britain Breathing website. The comic has also been used in some primary schools and hospitals in Devon. There may be interest from Allergy UK and Asthma UK

What are the challenges (e.g. copyright)?

There is no copyright issue

What are the student perceptions/responses/attainment?

the student has been pleased by the positive response to it and is looking to use this as a springboard to develop her career in sci com. She has not completed her degree yet but will hopefully do well- I would anticipate her to get a first or 2:1.

If published, how do you monitor use of the resource/s?

We will monitor our website and count the number of hard copies given

Any other comments

Course unit details:
Science Media Project

Unit code
BIOL31230

Credit rating
30

Unit level
Level 3

Teaching period(s)
Full year

Offered by
Faculty of Life Sciences

Available as a free choice unit?
No

Overview

Science Media Project

Produce a portfolio of communication materials aimed at a range of audiences, including a Biological Sciences Review Article, an article suitable for New Scientist (or equivalent), an oral presentation to a scientific audience, and a creative piece, which must be evaluated.

Aims

FYPs aim to develop research skills, both bioscience and generic, promote independent learning, enhance the employability of students, and enrich the student experience.

Please see the Research Projects & Literature Reviews link on the intranet for further information.

Learning outcomes

Outcomes for students are that you should:

learn to work independently or as part of a group/team as required (research group, for example) to address a particular bioscience question or topic

be able to search for and critically review the literature in a particular field and relate your own research to that in the existing literature;

develop critical and creative thinking skills (develop ideas, data analysis and evaluation skills, be able to form judgements);

gain experience in the scientific method and develop problem solving skills; for example, how to design experiments or develop strategies to test hypotheses and/or evaluate your output;

develop communication skills

write a scientific review and project report (or equivalent)

develop oral presentation skills (tutorial talk)

liaise with supervisor, other staff and students, as appropriate;

acquire additional project-specific skills as appropriate (such as various lab or IT skills).

Syllabus

The amount and timing of the work will depend on the particular Degree Programme and exact details will be given to you by the relevant Programme Director or Supervisor.

All projects are worth 30 credits, and most will have a 10 credit Literature Review associated with it (please see below for exceptions). Over the summer vacation, you will be allocated a supervisor. You will be informed of the name of your supervisor as early as possible in the first semester of the final year. You should contact your allocated supervisor as soon as you are able in the new semester, s/he will discuss the type of project with you, the bioscience topic on which it is based, and how the Project might relate to the Literature Review. Your supervisor may offer some "starter" references so that you can begin background reading for your Literature Review (you should have started work on your Lit Review no later than week 3).

Literature Reviews

Most Honours degree students are required to submit a 10 credit Literature Review (unit code BIOL30101).

Students on Cognitive Neuroscience & Psychology programmes who opt for an FLS project will do a 10 credit Psychology Dissertation in place of the Literature Review and should refer to separate Psychology Guidelines.

Project

Your project work spans semesters 5 and 6. In semester 5, you should plan your project, attend supporting seminars as appropriate, and begin preliminary work, which you will take forward in semester 6. You should aim to finish project work before the Easter break, and then write your Project Portfolio.

Employability skills

Analytical skills Analysis of evaluation data relating to your creative piece; analysis of other project-related resources where appropriate.
Group/team working This will vary depending on the type and nature of the project. You may work with other individuals for example (Museum, school, general public or elearning team), and you should support your colleagues.
Innovation/creativity In the design and evaluation of your project work
Leadership You may need to work with other staff to organise and deliver your project.
Project management Plan your work, communication pieces and submissions in a timely manner.
Oral communication 10 minute talk on your project in the tutorial programme.
Problem solving Project work often produces unforeseen issues or problems; thinking about how to deal with them is part of the project experience, so rise to the challenge and make contingency plans where appropriate.
Research Research the literature; research of related work; market research (if appropriate); using research methods to design experiments and test hypotheses (possibly in the evaluation of your creative piece).
Written communication You will write a Lit Review and Project Portfolio

Assessment methods

Both your Literature Review and Portfolio should be submitted via Blackboard as an electronic PDF file. You must also upload your Creative Piece for marking.

The deadline for handing in final reports is given on the front page of the final year handbook, or can be obtained from the Student Support Office. Details of Assessment and marking criteria can be found in the Guidelines to Literature Reviews and Projects document in Blackboard.

Feedback methods

Students completing a Literature Review can expect to receive formative feedback on an outline/plan plus a short extract (paragraph plus figure). When a Literature Review has been marked, written feedback can be viewed in Blackboard, and verbal feedback will be provided by your supervisor.

All students can expect to receive formative feedback on a full draft of your project report, or equivalent (but this will only be forthcoming if dates for obtaining feedback are agreed with supervisors and are met!).

Study hours

Independent study hours

Independent study 0

Teaching staff

Staff member

Role

Ruth Grady Unit coordinator
Carol Wakeford Unit coordinator