

Outreach officer

As an outreach officer, you will be responsible for carrying out public engagement and outreach work for your institution. These roles are most commonly held at universities and other research institutions, rather than private companies. You will organise events and create resources that enable the general public and schools to learn about, understand and engage with the research taking place.



What does the role involve?

- Devising a public engagement strategy
- Organising events and media campaigns
- Attending and facilitating events
- Creating a variety of resources such as posters, leaflets, videos and so on
- Working with researchers to create interactive demonstrations for use at events
- Communicating with schools and other public groups
- Communicating with other organisations or research groups to create joint public engagement or outreach activities
- Sometimes outreach roles require postholders to carry out fundraising activities or funding applications



Where would I work?

Offices within campuses or research facilities. Sometimes domestic travel is required.



What subjects should I do well in at school?

English, Mathematics, Science.



What qualifications do I need?

You do not need a background in quantum for this role, however, you should be interested in the field and have good foundational qualifications in subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science.



What skills and attributes are required?

Good communication, presentation skills, ability to understand and communicate complex scientific concepts to non-specialist audiences, organisation, creativity, problem solving, initiative, prioritisation, passionate about science and technology, ability to work effectively as part of a team.



What work experience would be helpful?

Experience of organising and working at events.



What about career progression?

Outreach officers can move into more senior roles by, for example, working for a larger project or institution, or alternatively, they could move to work in related but more senior roles such as leading events teams within a university or even organisations such as charities.

CASE STUDY



Dr Simon Foster

Simon studied Physics with Space Science at undergraduate level and subsequently for a PhD in solar physics at the University of Southampton. He then worked as a researcher at Imperial College London, investigating the link between solar spots and climate change. Following that, Simon became a climate change consultant and subsequently a physics teacher in a sixth form college. He now works at Imperial College London as the Engagement Lead, helping to make the work of the researchers there accessible to all; he also features in several science related TV shows too. Find out more about Simon's journey at: (tinyurl.com/careersinquantum).



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