

Research communications specialist

As a research communications specialist, you will use your understanding of science along with your communications skills to spread the word about the cutting-edge research your project is undertaking with the general public, industry and government.



What does the role involve?

- Devising a communications strategy
- Planning communications campaigns
- Putting together a variety of materials including press releases, leaflets, website content and social media posts
- Developing imagery to support communications
- Creating videos to communicate the work of the project
- Communicating with researchers and writing reports
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of communications



What subjects should I do well in at school?

English, Mathematics, Science, IT, Graphic Design.



What qualifications do I need?

GCSE as a minimum. There are no specific subject requirements for this role, however, good qualifications in core subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science are beneficial, along with an interest in quantum. Training in aspects of graphic design and marketing/ communications, as well as an understanding of the media landscape, would also be beneficial but is not essential.



Where would I work?

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



What skills and attributes are required?

Good communication, organisation, IT, graphic design, video editing, creativity, problem solving, ability to work independently and as part of a team.



What work experience would be helpful?

Experience of working with a variety of communications platforms (including web, print and social media) would be beneficial.



What about career progression?

Communications specialists can begin managing the communications of one research project within a university but can progress by becoming communications managers of larger projects or entire institutions, for example.

CASE STUDY



Manjeet K Sambhi

Having studied literature at undergraduate and postgraduate level, Manjeet worked in a number of different marketing and communications roles before joining the UK Quantum Technology Hub in Sensors and Timing as a communications officer, based at the University of Birmingham. The focus of Manjeet's role is to communicate the applications of Quantum Sensing technologies with the general public, industry and government. Find out more about Manjeet's journey at: (tinyurl.com/careersinquantum).