

EDINBURGH SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Job Description

JOB IDENTIFICATION

Job title: Science Communicator

Responsible to: Staff and Project Manager/Assistant Staff Manager/Team Leaders

Last Update: January 2026

JOB PURPOSE

As a Science Communicator with Edinburgh Science Festival, you will form part of the team ensuring the high-quality delivery of workshops and activities that make up the Festival's family programme at our flagship venue - the National Museum of Scotland. High-quality science communication is at the heart of what Edinburgh Science is all about and our Science Communicators are our ambassadors.

This role makes a real difference to the experience of children, families and adults at the Festival. You will facilitate visitors' experiences, helping with the engagement and understanding of the content using high-quality communication skills.

As the Festival only runs for a short time, we depend on our staff being reliable and committed to the role for the two weeks for which they are employed and willing to engage in all aspects of the visitor experience.

SCOPE & REQUIREMENTS OF THE ROLE

- Complete mandatory induction and training courses
- Learn at least one Edinburgh Science Festival workshop, with the potential to work on ad hoc events if interested and required
- Deliver your designated event for the full Festival run: 4 - 19 April 2026 (see further information: important dates for more information)
- Most roles are full-time but there are some part-time positions
- Assist with greeting customers and other duties within the venue during the Festival

KEY RESULT AREAS

- Successful completion of Festival induction, communication and event training.
- Familiarisation with the event delivery materials provided by the Festival.
- Familiarisation of the Science Festival programme.
- Successful delivery of designated event/s for the duration of the 2026 Festival.
- Demonstration of high level of customer service whilst working within the venue/s
- Familiarisation with health and safety measures and ability to competently implement and follow them as required
- Provide assistance in unpacking and re-packing of event kits as directed by Festival staff.
- Provision of all required identification and payroll documentation requested in a timely manner.

MAIN TASKS

- Participate in all training sessions required (including Science Communication Training and Event Training)
- Assist in setting up assigned event/s on-site and ensure your event/s is ready for the opening of the Festival
- Review and learn an assigned script and be prepared to supplement training provided on-site with individual learning to ensure readiness to deliver event/s
- Engage children and adults with the event material and facilitate the successful running of your designated area at all times
- Implement health and safety measures as required by the event risk assessment
- Attend all shifts as designated on the rota in order to deliver your assigned event during the Festival
- Understand the kit, props and consumables required for assigned event/s and support the Team Leader with management of consumables on the event/s
- Help maintain the safety of your space, including safe use of storage equipment and chemicals
- Advise Team Leader of any shortages of consumables or other supplies necessary to your event/s as soon as possible
- Attend any briefings required by Team Leaders or Festival Management
- Represent the high standards of the Edinburgh Science Festival at all times

COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Internal:

- Team Leader
- Assistant Staff Manager, Staff Management Team and Production Manager
- Front of House and Box Office Team
- Other Creative, Event Development and Production Staff (either permanent or temporary)
- Science Communicators

External:

- Venue Staff

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS, TRAINING AND SKILLS

We are looking for outgoing people who are excellent communicators and who enjoy working with the public and especially with families with children. Previous experience in Science Communication would be beneficial as would experience working in education or learning support, or a background in theatre and performing arts. However, passion is the key and an ability to work hard is essential.

Essential:

- Confident presenter with good communication skills
- Quick learner, comfortable with scientific information
- Experience working with children
- An interest in education and passion for the work we do
- Good team working skills
- Reliable and calm under pressure
- Confidence and experience in speaking with members of the public in a customer service setting

Desirable:

- Scientific background/education
- Experience delivering scripts (written material)
- Performance skills

- Experience in education or teaching
- Science Communication experience with Edinburgh International Science Festival or other festival or organisation

OTHER CONDITIONS

Edinburgh Science is committed to ensuring that:

- We are an exemplary organisation in the way we embrace environmental sustainability. To achieve this, it is the responsibility of all staff to minimise the environmental impact of their day-to-day activities and adhere to Edinburgh's policies on sustainability, waste, resource usage and carbon reduction.
- We uphold the principles of equality, fairness & diversity.
- We all work within a safe environment and adhere to good standards of health & safety.
- All information is protected and managed appropriately.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Important dates:

- Applications close: 11:59pm, Sunday 1 Feb 2026
- Planned interview period: Monday 9 Feb – Wednesday 18 Feb 2026
- Science communication training (mandatory): Saturday 28 Mar 2026 (subject to change)
- Event training (mandatory): Monday 30 Mar 2026 (subject to change)
- Festival live: Saturday 4 – Sunday 19 Apr 2026
- Schools Programme: Tuesday 21 – Thursday 23 Apr 2026

There will be two contract options for the Festival, each with different date requirements:

- **Contract A:**
28 and 30 March, and 4 -19 April
- **Contract B:**
28 March, and 12 - 23 April

Please note that to apply, you must be available for all dates listed under one of the contract options. Shifts are typically 8 hours long and involve being on your feet for extended periods, although some shorter shifts are available.

There will be flexibility when booking interview slots. Candidates will be able to self-select a suitable time, and all interviews will be conducted via Microsoft Teams.