

Meet the Scientist Role Profile



‘Today’s scientists, tomorrow’s science’

Providing opportunities for professionals working within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) sectors to engage with non-specialist audiences is a core part of the Thinktank public programme of events and activities. We believe that it is important for our visitors to be able to freely engage with those people who are directly working within STEM environments, as well as good for the scientists to be able to talk about their work and the impact that it has on others. There are also a variety of transferable skills that can be developed as a result of public engagement and this is good not only for the individuals taking part but for their host organisations as well. Meet the Scientist is one example of a public engagement activity that STEM professionals can become involved in.

Purpose of Role

The purpose of the Meet the Scientist programme is to increase engagement between scientists, science and Thinktank’s visitors. This engagement can take many forms, ranging from learning new skills and information, to a basic enjoyment of science related activities, but also not forgetting genuine dialogue between scientists and visitors, where both parties listen to and learn from each other.

Main tasks and activities

- To develop a series of activities that demonstrate science and the process of science for primarily family audience
- To deliver a Meet the Scientist event (most likely within Talking Point) within the timescale advertised to Thinktank visitors on the day of the event
- To explain scientific ideas clearly and accurately, in such a way that is appropriate for the age and understanding of the visitors they are addressing
- To be role models for visitors, especially those who might wish to advance their scientific studies or consider science as a future career
- To admit to not knowing everything that there is to know about science!
- To talk honestly with visitors about any aspect of science or scientific policy
- To raise the profile of science, scientists and their institutions
- To signpost ways that visitors might be able to engage further or simply find out more
- To highlight the relevance of science to our visitors’ lives
- Ensure the safety of the activities and carry out/ follow risk assessment guidelines
- To adhere to the Volunteer agreement and Volunteer Professional Policy

Volunteer professionals are not expected to-

- Carry out duties that are not within their task description or that they are not trained for
- Carry out emergency evacuation of the public spaces.

Training provision

Whilst there is no specific training made available by Thinktank staff for Volunteer Professionals, this can be arranged if requested. However, there is more information and a basic ‘training in public engagement’ package available from www.thinktank.ac/volunteering.

Main point of Contact:

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