



CNWX40120 Communications for Biological Scientists
MODULE DESCRIPTOR ('08/09)

Title	Communications for Biological Scientists
Code	CNWX40120
Credits	5
Semester	2
Level	4
Co-ordinator	William Watson
Contributors	William Watson, Clare O'Connor, Rosemary Clyne, Cormac Taylor, Elaine Quinn
Module Places	Max 20
Module Dependencies	NONE

Indicative Module Descriptor:

This module is designed to enable students the flexibility to hone their communication skills in specific areas at a time in their doctoral studies when the particular skill is most relevant. The module is divided into three parts in order to reflect the course of a PhD student's studies.

Students can attend any or all of the sessions set out below. Attendance at each of the sessions will be recorded, as will the completion of any assessment exercises. If students wish to obtain credits for this module, they must attend **ALL TEN** sessions and complete assessment requirements for **ALL THREE** parts of the module. It is expected that most students will spread these sessions out over the course of a 3 year period, since some material will not be applicable until the third year of their studies – e.g. participation in AccesScience.

Formal UCD Graduate School of Life Sciences registration and credit application will take place for relevant students on completion of Part 3 of the course, but will depend on the attendance and assessment records filed for Parts 1 & 2.

Students who do not wish to attend all sessions are welcome to select those topics that are of particular interest to them, and to join the group on the relevant dates. They should note however that they will not be entitled to receive credits unless they attend all 10 sessions in the module and complete all the required assessments. Places will also be limited in some cases to facilitate the subject material, and in this instance, preference will be given to students who are taking the full course. Any remaining places will then be opened to other graduate students.

The timetable below has been organised so as to show students which sessions might be most relevant to their current phase of study. Students may arrange to attend other sessions as necessary, but should check with the Communications and Education Officer and with their PI as to whether this is appropriate in any particular year of study.

COMMUNICATIONS – PART 1

MOST RELEVANT TO 1ST YEAR STUDENTS, SEMESTER 2

- Writing an abstract – 1 hour lecture, 2 hour workshop - Clare O'Connor
- Writing a scientific paper - 1 hour lecture, 2 hour workshop (review own) - TBC
- What the editor/reviewer is looking for - 1 hour lecture - Rosemary Clyne
- Presentation skills - Meet an Expert (2 hour) - Bill Watson
- Presentation skills - Workshops (4 hour)- Bill Watson

COMMUNICATIONS – PART 2

MOST RELEVANT TO 2ND AND 3RD YEAR STUDENTS, SEMESTER 2

1 X 3 HOUR SESSIONS

- Dealing with media - 1 hour lecture, 2 hour workshop EQuinn/ Media expert (TBC)

COMMUNICATIONS – PART 3

MOST RELEVANT TO 3RD YEAR STUDENTS, SEMESTER 1 / 2

4 X 3 HOUR SESSIONS

- Presenting to a lay audience / non-scientific abstract & presentation (AccesScience)
- Writing a review – 1 hour lecture, 2 hour workshop - William Watson
- Writing a thesis – 1 hour lecture, 2 hour workshop - Clare O'Connor



• How to write your first grant – 1 hour lecture - Cormac Taylor			
Workload:	100		
Seminars	30		
Specified activities	40		
Autonomous Student learning	30		
Assessment:	Type	%	timing
Ongoing assessment exercises		100%	Semester 2
Specified Activities:			
o Students will be asked to prepare assessment exercises relevant to the session material and their own research progression			
Assessment: Ongoing			