Science Writing

Job Summary

Science journalists research, report, write, and edit news and features, and convey that information to various audiences, often using a variety of multimedia. They create content for general and trade publications. They need to understand complex scientific information and translate it into a form that is easily understood. They find stories, interview sources, and then craft stories for publication in a newspaper, magazine, wire service, website, television or radio station, or other news outlets.

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Undergraduate

- Clubs, student government, or science or journalism professional societies
- Debate club, volunteer as tour guide at local nature center, museum, or tourist attraction
- Professional society webinars, workshops, and conference events related to science communication
- Hone skills through courses and conference presentations
- University newspaper or department newsletter articles about famous alumni or event or program, University press office
- Write a blog or create a website to showcase your writing samples, create videos, podcasts, or radio interviews
- Science communication events, activities, and technical sessions at science or science journalism conference
- Science writing internships at scientific and professional societies, nonprofits, for profit companies, news outlets, museums, science centers, media companies
- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Diverse Voices in Science Journalism
- AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows program
- National Association of Science Writers (NASW) travel fellowships
- Annual Santa Fe workshop
- Degree in science major or journalism or English or communications
- Courses with extensive writing (fiction and nonfiction) and journalism if pursuing science major; extensive science courses if not pursuing a science major
- Speech or science communication courses, volunteer by writing for the school newspaper or volunteering in the press office
- Write senior thesis if pursuing a science major

Also applicable at Graduate and Ph.D. level

Graduate/Master’s or Ph.D./Post-doc

- Present at conference, participate in local science communication events like science on tap
- Publish research, communicate research for a lay audience, create a video or podcast about the work
- Departmental committee, clubs, student government, or geoscience professional societies
- Debate club, volunteer as tour guide at local nature center, museum, or tourist attraction, attend science writing organization events, writing for a department or university press office
- Council for the Advancement of Science Writing graduate school fellowships
- Degree in a science discipline, science writing, or journalism
- Master’s thesis related to your science research
- Write documentation for commonly performed tasks in a laboratory or office if science major, write blogs about your research, volunteer in the university’s press office
- Speech or science communication courses, news writing or journalism classes if science major