JOB DESCRIPTION

Science Communicator

**SITE: W5 LIFE part of the Odyssey Group**

**LOCATION: Queen’s Quay, Belfast, BT3 9QQ**

**RESPONSIBLE TO: Learning & Engagement Lead**

**TERMS: Fixed Term Temporary Post (Maternity Cover) – from 1st September 2025 – 30th June 2026 – 37.5 hours per week over a 7 day week rota.**

**DATE: August 2025**

**OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE JOB:**

W5 is the Odyssey Trust’s Interactive Science & Discovery Centre and we are looking for people with a passion for inspiring others to learn about the world around them. If you have a love of science, engineering, technology or maths and you are skilled at finding ways to excite others to discover new ideas, ask questions and be amazed, then this could be the job for you!

The dynamic role of Science Communicator is a varied and interesting one. The successful candidate will become a member of the Learning and Engagement team with responsibility for delivering interactive science demonstrations, science shows, school workshops and a range of innovative programmes. This will involve effective liaison with the rest of the team as they develop new content and the post will require both the enthusiasm and skills to ensure that new programmes provide audiences with the most inspiring science experience W5 can offer.

The Odyssey Trust group of companies is committed to the core ideology of BEET, Best Experience Every Time for customers, colleagues and stakeholders. These principles will be developed with all to support outstanding customer service. All colleagues are expected to commit to the core values shown below:

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| **Core Value** | **Our Behaviour** | **What it means for our Customers** |
| **Positivity** | Smile, can do, have fun | We will always be helpful, welcoming & enthusiastic |
| **Integrity** | Deliver on our promises | We will be trustworthy & respectful |
| **Commitment** | Go above & beyond  | We will go the extra mile |
| **Innovation** | Find new ways to be better | We will always learn & improve |
| **Teamwork** | Together we achieve more | We will work together to put you first |

**MAIN DUTIES**

* Providing highly engaging, articulate learning experiences that meet the core aims of W5 as centre for learning for the public and education system.
* Presenting and supporting the development of public science demonstrations, floor shows, seasonal events, syllabus linked school workshops and school events.
* Presenting to both large and small groups, school/community groups and general public audiences that will be held both on and off-site.
* Taking all opportunities when working with groups to relate science to everyday life and other creative disciplines as well as science linked careers.
* Researching and keeping up to date with key science and science related topics, supporting the scripting of shows, sourcing required equipment, carrying out necessary risk assessments and supporting the shared training of other team members in the delivery of science demonstrations, shows, workshops and events.
* Liaising constructively with the Learning & Engagement Officers (LEO) in formation of new content for workshops, shows and events.
* Prioritise and organise workload effectively to ensure visitors have a learning experience that is well structured and offers high levels of engagement.
* Assisting the LEOs with the application for appropriate grants, awards and sponsorship to fund science and public engagement programmes.
* Engage with the performance management cycle and act on advice and expectations to ensure delivery and presentation skills meet expected standards as identified by your line manager.
* Assisting the public to have an enjoyable and engaging visit by facilitating their interaction with and understanding of the exhibits.
* Assisting with answering visitor questions in relation to science and other subjects as well as making science accessible and relevant.
* Staying up-to-date with new exhibits and programmes and the associated science content by carrying out background reading, attending training seminars and assisting with the dissemination to other staff.
* Working with the Visitor Services Team in supporting exhibition floor events, assisting with evacuations etc, and acting as a Fire Warden as required.
* Maintaining equipment and non-technical aspects of the exhibits, equipment etc. in the area of assigned duties, and notifying the technical team of any relevant problems.
* Undertaking such training as may be deemed necessary e.g. Risk Assessment, Fire Evacuation/Warden training, First Aid training, Disability Awareness training.
* Preparing for and delivering outreach programmes throughout Ireland as required.
* Ensuring the cleanliness and orderliness of their designated areas.
* Adhering to Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) guidelines and risk assessments.
* Any other duties as requested by your Line Manager.

All OTC staff are expected to:

* Maintain excellent working relationships with other staff and volunteers.
* Ensure the delivery of BEET to all our customers and be committed to the Odyssey ethos and objectives.
* Be committed to and work in accordance with our Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Equality and other established policies and procedures.
* Be flexible undertake such other duties that may be required including occasionally working evenings, weekends and public holidays, if required.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

## Essential Criteria

* Educated to degree level or equivalent.
* At least six months experience within the last two years of engaging with an audience. For example, small or large community groups, school groups, adult learning centres or youth work.
* A genuine and evidenced enthusiasm and interest for STEM related learning.
* A clear enthusiasm for working with people and a desire to maximise the impact of these opportunities.
* Positive and dynamic self-starter with a passion for excellence, creativity and innovation.
* An ability to adapt presentation styles to suit audiences from nursery to KS4.
* A confident but approachable presentation style with ability to present to large and small groups/ audiences.
* A proven ability to relate and respond sensitively to visitors from a variety of backgrounds and different science knowledge and awareness.
* Approachable, outgoing and imaginative and keen to be working with members of the public for extended periods.
* Previous experience of working in a team and an ability to recognise your own contribution to effective teamwork.
* Possess strong organisational skills, working accurately and without supervision.
* Ability to work under pressure and remain calm and professional in difficult situations.
* Driving licence which enables you to drive a car in Northern Ireland.

## Desirable Criteria

* A science related degree.
* A teaching qualification.
* Experience of researching topics and communicating findings in a good quality written and oral format.
* 12 months experience within the last three years of engaging with an audience (for example small or large groups, general public, school or community groups).
* Experience of using a wide range of audio-visual and scientific equipment.
* A current First-Aid qualification.

***Salary***

£24,000 - £26,000 per annum dependent on qualifications and experience

***Benefits***

The Odyssey Group has a range of benefits which it offers to full and part time staff[[1]](#footnote-1).

* Free car parking
* Contributory pension scheme, life assurance, paid sickness benefit and a health cash plan.
* Salary Sacrifice including pensions, holiday and cycle to work schemes
* 50% Discount on in-house items, including coffee, in the W5 café & 10% discount in the W5 shop
* Complimentary tickets to Belfast Giants, friends and family access to W5 and advanced ticketing to Arena events.
1. [Some T&Cs and qualifying periods may apply] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)