



Student-Curated Informal Learning and Engagement Spaces (SCI-LEnS)

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what is SCI-LEnS?

This project aims to produce a unique graduate course to UBC aimed at training science graduate students in effective science communication and outreach, with a particular focus on utilizing museums as spaces for exploring best practices for sharing science with the public.

that sounds cool!

tell me more about the course!

sure! the course will...

Train the next generation of researchers to be dynamic and engaging science communicators.

Equip graduate students to deliver complex, cutting-edge science to public audiences, peers, colleagues and the broader science community.

Bridge the gap between complex scientific work and the public, bringing UBC research to public audiences in informal learning environments.

Centre the student learning on museum visits, case studies, class discussion, collaboration, and dialogue with experts.

our course modules

#1 Foundations of Effective Science Communication

Scientists as Storytellers, Understanding your Audience and Yourself, Reconciliation in Science: Principles & Practices, Communicating with Kids & Teens, Controversy, Uncertainty, & Science as political action.

#2 Digital Storytelling & Science Journalism

Communicating Science through New Media, Science Journalism & Publishing for the Public

#3 Exhibit Design & Evaluation

Museums & Design Strategy, Exhibit Design Essentials, Evaluating Exhibit Success and Impact

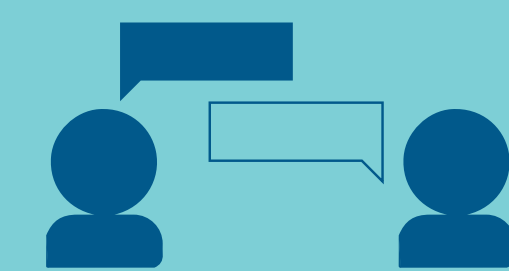
#4 Creating & Evaluating Public Science Programs

Crafting Informal Learning Experiences, Launching Science into the Community

how will student learning be assessed?

- Elevator Pitch:** Students give a 3-minute research pitch. Pitches and visuals are revised based on feedback, self-evaluation, and module 1 learnings.
- Student-facilitated Seminar:** Students pick a syllabus topic, summarize a recent article, present and lead discussion
- Class participation:** Students will be expected to participate in weekly in-class discussions.
- Museum field trip evaluation activity:** Students will go on a field trip to one of the course's partner institutions and evaluate an exhibit of their choosing using skills learned in Unit 3.
- Outreach activity:** Students will develop an outreach activity with the option to showcase it at a student-curated event in Pacific Museum of Earth for UBC community and public.

what else can students expect?



Peer-to-peer teaching
Students will lead the class in discussion and exploration of course learning topics, encouraging active participation and critical thinking.



Field trips to Museums and Exhibit Design Firms
Students will explore science communication in action through visits to local museums and exhibit design firms, engaging with experts in the field.



Student-curated outreach event
Students will have the option of showcasing their outreach activity at the Pacific Museum of Earth, sharing their science stories with audiences of all ages - a unique opportunity to engage with the public in a fun and non-intimidating space.

our team



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collaborations & consultations

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Experiential Learning: The course emphasizes hands-on learning, with students creating and building as core learning objectives.

Student-Curated Informal Learning Space: An annual outreach event at UBC highlighting cutting-edge science, inspiring visitors to discover the value of science.

Cross-Faculty Collaboration: The project brings together experts in museum outreach, education, and exhibit design to strengthen the course's development and sustainability.

Incorporating Indigenous and Decolonial Perspectives: UBC Indigenous scholars have provided guidance on incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into the course and centring decolonizing the sciences.

Pedagogical Exploration: Students will explore the pedagogical dimensions of museum exhibitions and work with scholars on contemporary exhibition development and educational messaging.

Public Engagement: The course aims to shift the lens through which scientists engage with the public, inviting the community into the museum to share academic endeavors.

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