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.

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 boarder 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

Scientist 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 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

What is SCI-LEnS?

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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