



We're looking for a Science Communications Officer (Fixed term) to join our team

Salary: £35,000

Base: Central Edinburgh/hybrid

Hours: Full time and fixed term for one year. 35 hours a week over core working hours of 10am – 3pm, Monday to Friday, with a one-hour lunch break. The office is open 8am – 7pm daily and our hybrid working policy requires all full-time employees to work at least two days a week in the Edinburgh office.

Benefits: 10% employer pension contribution; private medical insurance; employee assistance programme and counselling service; enhanced maternity/paternity/adoption pay; enhanced sick pay; 31 days' paid holiday/year plus four paid winter public holidays; 2-weeks fully remote working/year; three paid carer days/year; death in service benefit; cycle to work and travel season ticket schemes.

To support the Team's work-life balance, we work a nine-day fortnight where the charity is closed every second Friday.

About the role and why we need you

You can make an impact every day using your passion for science and your excellent communication skills. Our Science Communications team have a key role at Worldwide Cancer Research, engaging the wider team and our supporters (known as Curestarters) about the incredible research we fund.

We are looking for a creative, multi-skilled Science Communications Officer to champion our research and our global researchers through compelling storytelling. This involves collaborating across the charity to ensure content is accurate and audience appropriate. You'll also be interacting with everyone in the organisation to help them understand how cancer behaves and how our research is helping to find new cures.

Our values are curious, united, real, entrepreneurial and spirited, all of which you'll have the opportunity to demonstrate in your work. You'll be curious about our research and be innovative in how you present it. Your strong interpersonal skills will help you to work well with other teams, particularly Marketing and Fundraising, to help us provide the best supporter experience and grow our Curestarter community.

We need someone who shares our enthusiasm for discovery cancer research and who has experience of breaking down complex science into easy-to-understand content and fascinating stories. From presenting

to colleagues to creating social media posts, you'll be required to balance different tasks efficiently and to manage your own time effectively.

Who are we?

At Worldwide Cancer Research, we start new cures. Cancer is still one of the leading causes of death worldwide, but cutting-edge science can give us hope. Discovery research seeks to uncover new knowledge that could change the way we think about cancer. It reveals new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer that can save lives.

We actively seek unconventional and imaginative ideas from scientists at all stages of their career, across the globe. In some cases, we are the only organisation that will fund a scientist's idea. We take an unbiased approach to research funding by focusing on supporting only the best ideas for new cures. By having a diverse research portfolio, we increase our chances of finding breakthroughs.

Our vision is of a day when no life is cut short by cancer, and we believe we can achieve this by starting the life-saving advances of the future by sowing the seeds of discoveries. Anyone that helps bring forward breakthroughs – including our staff, our supporters, and the researchers we fund – is a Curestarter.

As a charity, we are committed to opportunity without barriers, and we are striving to seek, value and learn from different perspectives and experiences. We want Worldwide Cancer Research to be an inclusive organisation – where everyone can be themselves and feel valued – as diverse as the scientific community we fund and the families whose lives we impact.

We are committed to ensuring that we provide equal opportunities to every applicant regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. We aim to ensure that our recruitment process is unbiased and that everyone is treated equitably because our team members are at the heart of everything we do to start new cancer cures around the world.

To help start new cancer cures and save lives, we are looking for a Science Communications Officer to join the busy Science Communications team at Worldwide Cancer Research, to help the charity run its multi-million-pound funding programme for discovery cancer research.

How do I apply?

- Please email your CV and a one-page cover letter to: recruitment@worldwidecancerresearch.org
Focus the content of your letter on:
 - 1) An example of how you have translated complex science into easy-to-understand content
 - 2) An example of when you have worked in a team and what you did to help that team succeed

Your letter will be the key to your success and applications without letters may not be considered. Please consider the use of AI in your application carefully. We would like original cover letters reflecting your individuality and suitability to the role.

Please tell where you saw the role advertised.

- You will find the full **job profile** and our **benefits** on [Worldwide Cancer Research careers](#)
- Closing date is **Sunday 21 September 2025, midnight**.
- Interviews will be held on **Tuesday 7 October 2025** in Edinburgh – we will contact all applicants as soon as possible after shortlisting for interview.
- We are a disability confident committed employer – please contact Paula Cahill, our HR Manager, if you have any questions about our recruitment process, accessibility and adjustments to support you:
paulac@worldwidecancerresearch.org



Additional information

Award

Worldwide Cancer Research is a team of around 50 and we run an annual Employee Engagement Survey; in 2024 we achieved a 93% positive response to 'I would recommend Worldwide Cancer Research as a good place to work'.



Privacy

We will hold your application data on file for six months after the end of the recruitment round, after which your data is deleted or destroyed. Please view our [Recruitment Privacy notice](#).

Full Job description and person specification:

Post: Science Communications Officer (Fixed term)

Responsible to: Science Communications Manager

Key contacts/relationships:

Internal – Research Funding team, Marketing & Fundraising teams, all Team Worldwide

External – funded researchers, funding partners

Purpose:

As Science Communications Officer, to be part of the team responsible for delivering creative and engaging scientific content, for both internal and external audiences, to promote the charity's research and impact, fundraising initiatives and brand.

Reporting to the Science Communications Manager, to assist with the generation and management of scientific content, ensuring its accuracy in all charity's communications, and demonstrating the impact of the charity's research funding to supporters. To show that the charity is making significant progress in its mission to reach a day where no life is cut short by cancer. Also, to be responsible for co-ordinating past and currently funded grant holder involvement in the charity's fundraising and marketing activities.

Key responsibilities:**Delivering inspiring content –**

- Develop an in-depth knowledge of the charity's research portfolio (active and historical grants) to produce engaging research and science-based communications which deliver our brand values and key messages to our target audiences e.g., printed resources and other fundraising and marketing materials.
- With the support of the Science Communications Manager, summarise and promote new research projects funded each year by Worldwide Cancer Research.
- Assist the Science Communications Manager in the identification of newsworthy research stories and the production of website and social media content to bring our research to life.
- With the support of the Science Communications Manager, lead on an internal communications programme, delivering regular presentations and training materials to ensure all colleagues are well briefed on the research we support and its impact, are confident in talking about it, and in turn, can inspire our supporters and enquirers.
- Help to brief spokespeople for the charity for relevant media, including TV and radio, and at fundraising and marketing events.

Relationship management –

- Build relationships with the funded researchers to enable long-term follow up of grants which demonstrate the charity's impact.
- With the support of the Science Communications Manager and the Research Funding Manager, identify appropriate funded researchers to take part in fundraising and marketing activities and co-ordinate their involvement in the activities.
- Work with the Brand team to produce content for social media that champions discovery research and respond to queries on our social media channels that relate to cancer research.

- Develop good working relationships with the Research Funding team, helping ensure a smooth, reciprocal flow of information.
- Work with the wider team to respond to queries from members of the public with discretion and empathy, regarding cancer research or their experiences of cancer.

Wider responsibilities -

- Stay abreast of developments in cancer research at a national and international level and react accordingly.
- Identify communication opportunities as publications arise from Worldwide Cancer Research funded projects.
- Act as a spokesperson to champion discovery research and demonstrate the impact of the charity's funding.
- Provide support to other colleagues within the Research Directorate when required.
- Support the Brand team as required, ensuring research and science is communicated accurately.
- Ensure all activity is compliant with relevant data protection legislation and in line with organisational information governance policies.

Generic information to all roles

- The responsibilities described within the job description are not intended as exclusive or exhaustive. They are to highlight the major duties of the role and the post holder may be required to undertake other duties that are consistent with the overall purpose of the role.
- It is expected that every job description will be subject to a regular review. In addition, posts may be reviewed where there is a change in the requirements of the charity.
- Attend regular team training as required.
- Every member of staff is expected to be a role model to others within the charity and those they encounter in the course of their duties, upholding the charity's values.

Person specification:

Requirements	Essential	Desirable
Educational attainment	Degree-level qualification in a scientific research field.	Degree in a biomedical field. Higher degree (MSc, PhD) in a biomedical related research field. Science Communications qualification/training.

Experience	Writing engaging stories and content about complex research for a non-expert audience, while adhering to brand guidelines, tone of voice and key messages. Working on cross-team projects which include external stakeholders. Developing relationships with scientific researchers at all levels. Comprehensive and up-to-date, scientific understanding, ideally of cellular and molecular biology. Public speaking/presenting for non-scientific audiences.	Cancer research experience. Charity sector/cancer funding experience. Essentials of writing for the web and search engine optimisation (SEO). Digital media production e.g., video and social media content. Appreciation of research funding processes and principles.
IT experience	Proficient in MS Office software.	Collaborative project platform, e.g. Trello. Social media platforms. Website CRM use.
Skills and aptitudes	Proven, excellent communication skills, both written and verbal. Proficient in communicating effectively to a wide variety of audiences including public, researchers, colleagues and senior stakeholders. Aptitude for producing accurate, accessible and inspiring content for a wide range of non-scientific audiences. Ability to work autonomously on defined tasks and remain calm under pressure. Strong planning and organisation skills, including working to deadlines and prioritising workload. Good interpersonal skills, with evidence of building effective working relationships at all levels, both internally and externally. A creative mind-set.	
Interests	Charity work and enthusiastic about our cause. Science and technology. Professional learning and development.	Appreciation of discovery cancer research.

		Knowledge of Worldwide Cancer Research. Third sector networking. Science Communication networking.
Other requirements	Willingness to understand the vision, mission and strategy of Worldwide Cancer Research. Commitment to attend training courses to update knowledge and skills. Commitment to diversity and inclusion. Willingness to demonstrate the charity's values. Occasional travel throughout the UK and Europe if required for meetings/key events.	

Thank you for your interest in our work.

**worldwide
cancer
research**

No life should be cut short by cancer

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