

# Henry Stennett



Synthetic Biologist  
Science Communicator



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## Skills



## Awards

**PLUS Award (2017 - 2018):** Completed 50 hours of work experience, an intensive skills activity, and four employability workshops alongside my PhD responsibilities. Only 3% of the student body at the University of Bristol complete this award.

**EPSRC RISE Ambassador (2018 - Present):** Attended a media training workshop and made connections with three EPSRC partners as part of the Recognising Inspirational Scientists and Engineers award.

**DSTL Collaboration (2018 - Present):** Won additional funding from a government panel and co-supervision for my PhD project from a DSTL researcher.

## Education

2016 - 2020

**PhD candidate**

University of Bristol

- Antibiotic discovery in the abyss - I test the bacteria that grow in deep sea sponges for their ability to produce new antibiotics, and work out how.
- Taught myself Bash programming for genome assembly, wrote a protocol for labmates to follow, and taught them the process.
- Established a team lab workflow, organised and actively participated in weekly meetings to decide research directions, negotiate roles, and share ideas.
- Co-wrote a textbook chapter with colleagues, which required candid communication to divide the workload, and clear thinking to organise information and structure the text effectively.
- Became a confident speaker by giving lab talks, departmental presentations, and poster sessions at international conferences. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of my work I learned to communicate across subject boundaries.

2011 - 2015

**MBiochem, 1<sup>st</sup> Class**

University of Oxford

- Placed eighth in my year group of over 100 students. Awarded an Exhibition and a Scholarship by Brasenose College for continued academic excellence.
- Developed strong organisational and self-motivation skills, consistently delivering weekly essays and problem sheets to a high standard and on time.
- Proven ability to thrive under pressure in the Oxford system.

## Science Communication

May 2018

**Presenter**

Research Without Borders

- Planned interactive games and visual aids for a stall at an outreach event.

Oct 2017 - Apr 2018

**PERFORM**

EU Horizon 2020

- Intensive training in performance skills and science philosophy.
- Planned and ran four workshops at a secondary school, explaining my research and helping students relate personally to scientists.
- Helped students to transform my science into an engaging science busk, and supported them as they performed it to the public.
- Learned the value of improvisation and flexibility - of not being afraid to laugh or be laughed at!

Nov 2017

**Outreach Volunteer**

We The Curious

- Encouraged visitors at a science centre to talk with me about antibiotic resistance. Interacted with people of different ages, genders, and backgrounds, and adapted my approach.
- Learned the power of visitor-led dialogues over one-way lectures. I had to think on my feet, and be reactive and enthusiastic.

2017 - Present

**Founder and Contributor**

BioByDesign.com

- Set up a synthetic biology website with colleagues, contributing to team meetings and organising content release. Used my eye for detail to take the lead on website design and branding. Regularly write articles for the site, student magazines, and The Conversation.

## Experience

2017 - Present

**Volunteer**

365 Shelter

- I'm passionate about combatting social isolation, so I regularly volunteer overnight at a homeless shelter. This involves being responsible for 15 at-risk adults along with another volunteer.
- I believe we have a social duty towards each other and that we should take it seriously.

2017 - Present

**Demonstrator**

University of Bristol

- Demonstrating lab techniques to undergraduates and answering their questions in a friendly and approachable way.
- I've learned to be patient, to approach problems from different angles when explaining ideas, and to listen to students' needs.