

Workshop Development brief for Physics: What, Why, How?

Aims:

The project will develop three KS3 workshops which will be delivered by SEPnet (South East Physics Network) Outreach Officers.

The workshops will deliver the following key messages:

1. Anyone can do physics.
2. Physics is exciting, relevant & important; it goes beyond the classroom.
3. Studying physics further broadens career possibilities.

The target students are those with medium to high science capital.

Context:

The SEPnet Outreach programme has previously focussed on KS4 students. SEPnet is now looking to develop standard workshops which any Physics Outreach Officer can deliver to KS3 students.

The SEPnet Outreach team has started to form some ideas for the workshops, but sadly there isn't enough capacity to develop these ideas into reality. This is where you could come in!

SEPnet Outreach looking for an external contractor with experience in developing and delivering school workshops and is aware of current trends and research in informal science learning to take our initial ideas and form them into workshops SEPnet Officers can deliver from September 2017.

Our initial ideas can be found [here](#). We also welcome new ideas.

Workshop Details:

[ASPIRES](#) shows that science capital is key is selection of STEM subjects throughout GCSE and A-Level. By delivering the above messages the workshops aim to maintain and raise the science capital of our target students. For those with medium science capital, these workshops should encourage them to view STEM as a pathway to a potential career, for those with high science capital, they will be encouraged to think specifically about Physics. Ideally the workshops should also include materials for parents.

In particular the workshops should take on the following recommendations from ASPIRES:

- Bust the brainy image of physics / physics careers.
- Break the science = scientist link.
- Help embed STEM careers awareness in science lessons.
- Help build science capital with students and families.

There will three hour-long workshops ideally delivered as a set, i.e. one a term across a school year. However they should also be able to stand on their own too. The workshops will be delivered during Year 8 science lessons to middle and high-tier science sets. No preparation should be required by teachers before delivery of the sessions.

Outreach Officers and experienced Undergraduate Ambassadors will be delivering these workshops. Our initial plans would require a presenter with quick thinking and experience. Ideally the same person would deliver the three workshops across the year.

The Evaluation:

There will be two stages to the evaluation.

Stage 1 – This will take place throughout the development of the workshops. You will be responsible for this and costs should be included in your proposal. There will be at least two timeframes to test each workshop at SEPnet partner schools across the region. SEPnet Outreach Officers and Undergraduate Ambassadors will be available to assist with this testing. Additional testing on a smaller scale can also be arranged.

Stage 2 – The workshops will be evaluated as a complete set during the 2016/17 school year. This is beyond the scope of this proposal. There will be an evaluation brief released in June 2017.

Project Timeline:

- Week starting 6/16 January 2017 – Initial meeting with SEPnet Director of Outreach.
- Friday 3 February 2017 – Deadline for Development Plan.
- End of March 2017 – Prototype workshops developed. Deadline for Testing Plan.
- April 2017 – First round of testing in SEPnet partner schools.
- May 2017 – Take feedback and redevelop workshops.
- June 2017 - Second round of testing in SEPnet partner schools.
Evaluation Brief (for workshops as programme) put out to tender.
- July 2017 – Take feedback and redevelop workshops.
- Early August 2017 –SEPnet Outreach Officers trained.
- September 2017 onwards – Workshops rolled out to SEPnet partner schools. Evaluation of workshops as a set commences.

Practicalities:

SEPnet Partner Schools have worked with SEPnet Outreach Officers in the past. Those involved in the initial testing would have volunteered to take part and will know the workshops are in a development phase.

Additional funding is available to purchase equipment not found in schools / in our outreach programme for these workshops.

Final Delivery:

By August 2017 we would like three finished workshops which will include:

- A delivery guide for Outreach Officers / Undergraduate Ambassadors.
- Any materials for delivery, including slides (or any other presentation material) and additional equipment.
- A half day / full day training session for the SEPnet Outreach Officers.

Project Requirements:

You will be required to:

- Liaise throughout the project with the Director of Outreach and fortnightly updates.
- Work in a flexible, imaginative and responsive way.
- Deliver work to a high standard, particularly in relation to attention to detail, drafting, project management, communication and consultation.
- Demonstrate awareness of current trends and research in informal science learning.

Budget & Deadline:

SEPnet Outreach will accept proposals **up to £11,000** which should include any travel expenses and VAT if applicable.

An additional £1,000 is available for materials throughout the development stage of the project.

Any proposed budgets above this amount should be justified within the proposal.

Deadline for proposals is **Midday Tuesday 6 December 2017**.

There will be a short phone interview on **Wednesday 12 / Thursday 15 / Friday 16 December** for selected proposals.

Final decisions will be made by **Wednesday 21 December**.

Contact:

We strongly recommend you to contact Dominic Galliano on 0207 882 5063 / 07702 363 731 or d.galliano@qmul.ac.uk for an informal chat and additional information.