

LAURA NEILL

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CAREER PROFILE

Post-doctoral scientist with broad-ranging expertise in research, able to work both independently and as a supportive team member. Extensive experience in experimental design and statistical analysis. Able to quickly assimilate information, summarise and draw conclusions. Confident presenting to both technical and less-skilled audiences. Thrives on new intellectual challenges.

RELEVANT SKILLS

Communication

- Presenting research results at national and international scientific meetings (up to 500 people)
- Preparing PhD thesis (40,000 words) and annual progress reports for grant awarding bodies
- Publishing scientific papers in high-quality peer-reviewed journals
- Teaching and demonstrating at undergraduate practical and tutorial sessions (2008-2011) and Open University Summer School (2008)

Interpersonal skills

- Collaborating with colleagues to develop and test research ideas
- Supporting the development of team members through assisting with their professional training to ensure competence and personal safety

Research and Analysis

- Identifying appropriate research questions and designing experiments to test hypotheses
 - Generating data through research and analysing using appropriate analytical packages
- Gathering and assimilating information from published sources to write review documents

Project Management

- Managing individual scientific research projects (post-doc and PhD) to fulfil objectives within grant timelines
 - Organising practical and tutorial sessions for courses in Molecular Biology and Developmental Biology at Oxford University (2008-2011) and Nottingham University (2004-2008)
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Post-Doctoral Research Scientist, Department of Plant Sciences, Oxford University **2008-2011**

- Senior post-doctoral scientist investigating genes regulating flower development

Assistant Information Officer, ICI Agrochemicals **2003-2004**

- Working as part of a team to provide a scientific and commercial information service to more than 200 scientists at an international research centre

Laboratory Assistant, British Gas plc **1999-2000**

- Gap year position, assisting generally with chemical sample analysis from research pipeline

EDUCATION

PhD, Nottingham University **2004-2008**

- Project to investigate molecular and biochemical basis of tomato fruit ripening
- Awarded Mabel Pannel Postgraduate Scholarship (1989) for out-standing progress in research

BA (Hons) Degree, Oxford University **2000-2003**

Pure & Applied Biology, Class 2 (i), including module in Statistical and Quantitative Methods

Tudor Grange Comprehensive School, Solihull **1994-1999**

3 A Levels (1999) in Chemistry (A), Physics (B) & Biology (A)
9 GCSE level (1997)

RELEVANT SKILLS & COURSES

- Teaching Skills (Level 1) - introduction to teaching and lecturing methods (2 day course; Oxford University, 2004); Supervising DPhil students (Oxford University, 2010)
- UK GRAD School (Nottingham, 2007) – a 4 day residential course developing communication, team working, leadership, commercial awareness and problem solving skills through experiential activities with other post-graduate researchers
- Microsoft Office (ECDL completed 2010); daily use of Microsoft Word (thesis and publications), PowerPoint (conference presentations), Excel (data analysis)
- Intermediate language course for conversational French
- Current driving licence

INTERESTS

- Sailing – member of Slough Yacht Club, recently passing RYA Level 1 qualification
- Cycling - as part of a team of three, organised and participated in a charity event cycling from John O’Groats to Land’s End (2003), raising money (£3000) for three childrens’ charities (Helen House, Childline and Wildlife Watch).
- Volunteering – assistant with environmental charity Wildlife Watch, involves organising and developing structured activities for primary age children such as pond-dipping, rain water analysis, both for education and fun!

REFEREES

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