NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Meet the Scientist: Research and Curation

Please use this information to help you and your students get the most from your visit.

Your session	
Session name	Nature Live – Meet the Scientist: Research and Curation
Location	Attenborough Studio, Darwin Centre, Orange Zone
Start time	12.00
Please ensure you are ready and waiting to enter the studio 10 minutes before the show is scheduled to begin. Unfortunately, we are unable to admit latecomers.	
Duration	30–45 minutes
Minimum ratio	1 adult : 30 students
Maximum group size	30 students
Please ensure you meet the required minimum adult : student ratio.	

About the session

The Attenborough Studio is a space where Museum scientists regularly meet the public. Your students will have the opportunity to hear about and discuss a scientist's work. The host is a skilled facilitator who will lead the discussion and ensure there is plenty of opportunity for questions from the audience. Please ensure students have some questions prepared. You may wish to encourage students to watch a Nature Live event beforehand through the Museum website, so they are familiar with session format (see the before your visit section).

We invite students to suggest questions by email before their visit, to be answered on the day. While we may not be able to answer all questions in the time available, we will try to address as many as possible. Please send questions to naturelive@nhm.ac.uk

This session may be filmed (although not broadcast live) and the recording archived. Audience members are sometimes in view. If you are in agreement, permission will be sought on the day from all students for the film to be made available on the Museum website. This is so other AS and A-Level students can benefit from the discussion. Students over the age of 16 are able to sign their own permission forms.

Your scientist

Different Museum scientists contribute each week. Please see the enclosed description of your scientist's work, with their suggested references for possible follow-up work.

Before your visit

Essential:

- Students should have an agenda. Ask students to come up with a set of questions and then share some or all of them with the rest of the group before your visit. For example, 'what uses or applications are there to your research?', 'what possible future developments do you foresee in this area?' or 'what are the ethical, social, economic or environmental implications to your work?' Some questions may contextualise the research, for example 'why did you choose this subject to research?', 'who funds the research?', 'how many people are in your team?' or 'what qualifications do you need to do this sort of science?'
- Students should be clear about what notes they need to make during the visit. Too much time writing down what someone says may distract them from engaging with the scientist.

Helpful:

- Ask your students to discuss or write down what they expect to happen. See if they describe the event as an active learning situation or something more passive. They should go expecting to play an active part, questioning, observing and thinking.
- Students may wish to visit the Museum's research and curation website before their visit, to get an overview of the Museum's scientific research, www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/index.html

A note about behaviour

One of our experienced hosts will lead your session. We work to make it an inspiring and inclusive experience for all students and find we rarely have problems with behaviour. However, teachers have overall responsibility for the conduct of their students and we expect you to support us with this where necessary. Students benefit significantly when teachers and accompanying adults get involved, so please do join in.

Health and Safety

Please assist staff when seating students in the Attenborough Studio to ensure gaps are not left between seats. Be aware that handheld devices are located in seat arm rests and attached via a cable. To avoid trip hazards, please ensure students return their devices to the housing before leaving the venue.

We advise students to wash their hands after handling specimens.

Please advise the bookings team of any special needs your students may have so we can prepare.

Evaluation of the session

To assess the effectiveness of the session, we may ask if you and your students could complete feedback forms at the end. Both forms take just a few minutes to complete.

Learning objectives

- to understand the biological principles relating to a Museum scientist's research
- to understand the purpose or significance of the research encountered
- to understand any ethical, social, economic or environmental implications of the research
- to understand the scientist's working methods and why they are used
- to be inspired by the experience of meeting a practising scientist and to be alerted to scientific research as a career path