

Imperial College London
MSc in Science Media Production
Aptitude assignment and portfolio instructions

Please complete both parts of the assignment below and (if appropriate) submit a small portfolio of work. Our assessment of the completed assignment is a major deciding factor in who we invite to interview. Good luck!

Assignment (compulsory)

1. Write a review in about 400 words of a feature film that you have seen recently. Give the film a rating, based on a star system, where no stars are awarded for something you really hated through to five stars for an experience not to be missed, with intermediate star numbers as appropriate. Write the review as if you were a film critic for a broadsheet newspaper. Ideally the film should be a recent release (we believe you should definitely go to the cinema as part of this exercise!). Remember that a good review must tell the reader briefly what sort of film it is and what it is about, as well as giving a critique of its quality and value. In your critique try to articulate why it possesses the qualities (good or bad) that you identify. Try, if possible, to relate your judgment to more objective criteria than simply your taste in films.

2. Imagine you are a producer with an independent television or radio production company pitching ideas to BBC television or radio, or to Channel 4 or 5. Write a 400 word preliminary proposal for a single documentary programme or a short series of such programmes on a scientific, technological or medical theme. Make sure you specify which channel you are proposing to and, if appropriate, which slot (for instance *Horizon*, *Equinox*, *Cutting Edge*, *Costing the Earth* and so on). Such a proposal needs to have several things going for it if it is to succeed:

- It must tell an interesting story in itself, and for its potential audience.
- If designed for television it must be clear why the story is best told on television.
- If designed for radio it must be clear why the story is best told on radio

Portfolio (Voluntary)

If you have already done some radio, television, film or live performance work you might want to submit video or audio tapes, or a reel of extracts. If you do choose to submit such an item, please do not submit more than 15 minutes worth of material. Alternatively, you may be a keen photographer or visual artist, or have written material that has been published, or designed an exhibition or poster. If so, we would be happy to see a small selection of any such material.

Your assignment should be attached along with your personal statement, under the 'personal statement' section of the online application form.

Your application should also include a copy of your CV and a personal statement.

Your CV should list your education to date, your work experience (including voluntary work where relevant), and any publications you have. Include a brief summary of the duties each post entailed, but please keep your CV concise and factual – i.e., give dates and place of employment rather than describing the skills you have acquired.

Your personal statement should discuss why you want to move into the field of science communication, how your experiences to date have informed this decision, and what you expect to get from a masters degree in this subject. The personal statement must not exceed 500 words.

If you have difficulty attaching any of the documents to your application, please email liam.watson@imperial.ac.uk.