

Meet the scientist



Name: Tim Harrison

Place of Birth: Pontypool, Monmouthshire, South Wales

Where is your place of work? Bristol

Job titles: Director of Outreach, School Teacher Fellow and Science Communicator in Residence

Who do you work for? Bristol ChemLabS, School of Chemistry, University of Bristol

What do you do? My job is to take some of the outputs from atmospheric science research and turn them in to language that most people can understand. I do this through writing articles about climate change and atmospheric chemistry, through giving talks, and by performing atmospheric chemistry. I also teach others to do this.

What skills do you have to use in your job? I use my understanding of general chemistry to translate research into terms that most people can understand. I need to be very good at communicating; whether through writing or speaking. I use performance and teaching skills. I need to use IT skills and mathematics. I demonstrate excellent practical chemistry skills and a sound understanding of health and safety.

Why do you like your job? I love to teach people about some of the wonders of science/chemistry. I love doing chemistry experiments. I like all the travelling I need to do, whether around the UK or in all the countries around the world where I am asked to teach. My job is different every day and I get to meet lots of interesting people from all over the world.

What inspired you to choose a career in science? My interest in science started on two fronts: watching some of the early David Attenborough's wildlife documentaries and by following the Apollo missions and eventual Moon landings in the 1960s when I was still in primary school. My interest in Chemistry was sparked by my first (then subsequent) chemistry teacher in the comprehensive school I attended when I was in the equivalent of Year 7 (age 11).