

What do scientists really do?

David Bromfield is a journalist, presenter and science communicator, working at the BBC.



"I did Chemistry, Physics and Zoology at A level. After a BSc.Hons in Biochemical Genetics, I passed a Post Graduate Certificate in Education to become a chemistry teacher. Two years later I was head-hunted to work in the City as a recruitment consultant. After this I returned to science teaching.

I did a Masters Degree in Science Education part-time in the evenings at Kings College, London University. In Nov 2000 I won the BBC Talent competition, beating 11,000 applicants to work as researcher/presenter on Tomorrow's World (TW). My MEd was one of the reasons that I won the competition.

A typical day on TW starts with reading scientific journals, searching the web and newspapers for relevant stories to film. There is a lot of research. I thoroughly check stories by finding relevant people to authenticate the validity of any claims people make. My findings are summarised in a proforma which I present in a programme planning meeting. I have to defend the film proposal that I have found, both scientifically and as an interesting subject for viewers. Anything we decide to film is rechecked before we start the process. Another role I have is to go to script meetings to explain concepts to the presenters and ensure that anything which is said in the script is correct.

After my spell on TW, I returned to teaching for a year before joining the BBC (Sept 2002) as Education Reporter on Radio Five Live and a reporter on the Six o'clock News. I am looking forward to being a presenter on a new factual programme which starts in January 2003."

Do you want to ask David a question?

You can email David during the Science Year AKA Science theme at the Science Year website. All the answers David sends out will be shown on the website at www.scienceyear.com/chalkface/index.html, so check there first to see if he's already answered your question. His email address is at the bottom of that page.