IOP Schools and Colleges Lecture - Discussion

Concept
Being an IOP Schools and Colleges Lecturer involves developing an hour long lecture, aimed at 14-16 year olds. The lecturer will deliver this lecture at 35 venues (twice at each venue), across England, Scotland and Wales. The average audience per lecture is around 200 students, so you will reach around 14,000 students directly.

- Is this something that would appeal to potential lecturers at your university?
- Is it something that the university is likely to be supportive of?

Lecturer
We usually encourage university based researchers to apply to become lecturers.

- Would it be more appropriate to target outreach officers?

Size of grant
Lecturers are given £20,000 to cover all expenses and to pay for their time. At a rough estimate, based on costs in previous years, this works out at around £250-300 a day, for 35 days delivering lectures and 10 days developing the lecture.

- Is this an appropriate rate?

Time commitment
The lecture tour lasts for one academic year, and we invite lecture proposals around one year before the start of the tour. During the tour, lecturers will spend approx. 4 days a month travelling to and delivering lectures. This will usually be 4 days in a row with overnight stays between lectures.

- Is this level of commitment likely to be a problem?

Publicity
We produce a one-page ‘call for proposals’ document (PTO to see a copy of the 2013 document) that we send out to various places: email lists (PSCI-com, SOSN), via email to our branches and groups, and via email to all university physics departments. We also put notices on our website and social media.

- Is this effective?
- Is there anywhere else that we should be advertising, or should we be advertising in a different way?

Application process
We ask for a two-page proposal that outlines the talk topic, the lecturer’s previous experience and some indicative costs. We then shortlist and invite shortlisted lecturers to come into our office to audition.

- Is this application process suitable?
Schools and Colleges Lecture 2013 - Call for Proposals

The Institute of Physics Schools and Colleges Lecture has been delivered by a series of acclaimed physics communicators on an annual basis throughout Great Britain for over twenty years. The lecture uses demonstrations and interactivity to enthuse students and show how their classroom science relates to modern fields of physics.

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic and inspiring physicist to produce and deliver the 2013 talk to audiences primarily of 14-16 year olds at approximately 35 venues organised by the Institute (this usually involves at least two talks per venue). The talks take place throughout the calendar year and can be arranged to accommodate any other commitments the lecturer has.

Past talks have included:
- Physics and the Games: a Winning Formula - David James, Heather Driscol and Leon Foster, Sheffield Hallam University
- The Science of Seeing Inside Your Body - Michael Wilson, University Hospital Birmingham
- Powering the Future: The Physics of Fusion - Melanie Windridge
- How to Explore the Universe - Andrew Newsam, Liverpool John Moores University
- Rock in 11 Dimensions: Where Physics and Guitars Collide! - Mark Lewney
- Light Fantastic: The Science of Colour - Pete Vukusic, University of Exeter
- Gravity, Gas and Stardust - Pete Edwards, Durham University
- Our Planet, Our Future - Karen Bultitude and Laura Grant
- Fantastic Plastic - Averil MacDonald, Surrey University

You can watch some of the previous lectures and see this year's tour itinerary by visiting www.iop.org/schoolslecture.

Existing talks will be considered if they have not toured nationally. In the past the Institute has funded the tour with around £20k but we are happy to assist the presenter in seeking further funding if desired.

If you are interested in taking on this prestigious role for 2013 please send us a two page proposal before Friday 25th May 2012 outlining the talk topic, your previous experience and indicative costs.

We will select a shortlist and these people will be asked to present a short talk at the Institute's offices in London. It is anticipated these will take place in mid-June.

For queries or to submit a proposal please contact:

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