

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

Course Title

Science for an audience – improve your confidence in speaking publicly about your work

Proposed date(s)

27th November 2026

Course Language

English

Course Leader(s) and very brief summary of relevant qualifications and experience (no more than 2 lines for each trainer)

Elinor Thompson is an educator and former public health physician who runs learning events that focus on growing skills where reason mingles with imagination, logic with feeling. She is co-founder of the PRBB Intervals programme in Barcelona.

General description of the course (relevance and context for the PRBB)

Presenting complex, scientific material in public is one of the most challenging skills a scientist needs to develop. How to be clear and accurate about science while also stimulating curiosity and interest is not easy – especially when the audience comes from varied disciplinary backgrounds.

This in-person workshop will build on skills developed in the course *Behind the Scenes*. Participants will practise speaking in both planned and impromptu exercises and will enhance their learning by giving and receiving peer-group feedback.

Course Aim

This course aims to help participants who already know how to plan and organise their material for high impact, to increase their confidence speaking to an in-person audience.

Learning objectives (what new skills, knowledge &/or attitudes will participants go away from the course with?)

Participants will refresh current knowledge, hone skills, work on their versatility for coping with unexpected situations and develop their self-awareness as speakers.

Training methods

In-person, facilitated learning with a group of peers. Expect to stretch your comfort zone and to help your colleagues learn while you also learn.

Sessions will be interactive and will include group and pair work, individual exercises, and recording on camera as well as peer-to-peer critique and feedback.

Target group in PRBB

This course is for anyone working at the PRBB who speaks to audiences about complex, science-related topics. As the course will be based on the methodology taught in the course *Behind the Scenes*, earlier participation in that course is encouraged and **places will be allocated preferentially** to those who have done that course. If you have not attended *Behind the Scenes*, depending on availability we may be able to offer you a place if you have some experience as a speaker – please contact Intervals for info.

Number of participants (maximum) 10

Total course hours (Please specify: a) direct training with instructor present b) required self-study.

Note: only the direct training hours will be included in the post-course certificate.

- a) 6 hours in-person workshop b) self-directed time before the course to prepare a 5-minute presentation of own material.

Distribution of course (hours/days)

One day

Course programme (outline of topics to be covered)

Introducing others, personal and peer needs assessment, story and clarity, spontaneity, versatility, vocal awareness, body language and performance.

Pre-course preparation (what preparation should participants do before the course – reading, online study, prepare ideas etc?) and study commitment.

Participants should prepare a 5-minute presentation on any topic related to their scientific work. Detailed instructions after your place has been confirmed. You will also be sent a short speech to prepare and read for performance. NB it will *not* be necessary to learn the speech.

Material participants need to bring:

Your mobile phone with sufficient charge and memory to allow a colleague to film your 5-minute talk.

Relevant background reading/ audiovisual/websites or other materials

Please review and revise the course manual from *Behind the Scenes*. If you no longer have it we will send you another copy shortly before the workshop.