

Internship Title:	Christmas Lectures Intern x1 Placement
Date	mid September to mid December 2025
Location:	Albemarle St, London
Contract type:	3-month full-time (35 hour) internship
Salary:	Payment by stipend from University/Research Council/ Doctoral Training Programme. Please check funding before applying.

The CHRISTMAS LECTURES and the role of the Intern

This placement will involve joining the Ri at its busiest and most exciting time of year: the planning, filming and broadcasting of the CHRISTMAS LECTURES.

Started by Michael Faraday in 1825, and first broadcast on national television in 1936, the CHRISTMAS LECTURES are the UK's flagship science series. This three-part series is filmed in front of a live studio audience in the Ri's famous lecture theatre and watched by millions on the BBC over the festive period, and on BBC iPlayer and the Ri YouTube channel afterwards.

The CHRISTMAS LECTURES intern will be a key part of the delivery team for the lectures, working alongside the Ri Team. They will assist with preparations for the creation, development and implementation of the CHRISTMAS LECTURES and associated activities. The role will involve working with Ri colleagues, a TV production company, partner organisations around the UK, and a variety of unpredictable children, animals, academics and props.

This year's Lectures will be presented by Dr Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock, renowned space scientist, broadcaster, and passionate science educator. In this 200-year anniversary series, Dame Maggie will take audiences on a journey through space and time, exploring humanity's evolving understanding of the universe – from ancient astronomy to the cutting-edge discoveries of today.

Drawing on her expertise, including work on the James Webb Space Telescope and satellite-based Earth observation, Dame Maggie will bring the wonders of space exploration to life. With help from other experts and demonstrations (including historic recreations from the Ri archives), she will examine how our relationship with the cosmos has transformed over the past two centuries – and where it's heading next.

Every day of the internship will be different but potential tasks and responsibilities include helping to coordinate the multiple partners who come together to make the Lectures happen. This may include researching items for scripts and supporting script production; liaising with schools on their engagement; coordination of internal workstreams, and overseeing certain elements of the production. There may be heavy lifting or access to hazardous material, but full Risk Assessments will be carried out and training and support given where necessary.

You may also be provided with the opportunity to work with Ri colleagues from other departments so that you end your placement with a full understanding of how the Ri meets its mission.

Who are we looking for?

This placement would be ideal for anyone interested in learning more about science communication and informal education through demonstrations, live events, and mass media. There is no need to have any prior TV or presenting experience, but the following experience is highly desirable:

- Experience working on projects with multiple stakeholders working towards delivery to a rigid timetable.
- Experience of taking science communication and/or informal education projects from conception through to delivery.

We encourage you to apply even if you don't meet all the desirable criteria. This role is a valuable learning opportunity, and we welcome candidates who are eager to grow and develop their skills.

Practicalities: This opportunity is only open to PhD students who are eligible to undertake an internship as part of their studentship and receive a stipend from their Doctoral Training Programme (DTP). Please check with your university/DTP to ensure funding is available before applying for this internship.

For more information about the Ri, the internship programme, relevant dates for this internship, and to download the monitoring form, please see our website at [Work with us | Royal Institution \(rigb.org\)](https://www.royalinstitution.org/working-with-us)

Read a blog from one of our previous PhD interns here: [From birds to bones and the BBC | Royal Institution](#)