

# CACTUS

## Careers in science communication: How to get started

## Launching your career in science communication

Looking to transition from academia to industry? Here are some tips to get you started.

If you are already armed with a STEM degree, it would be helpful to complement it with some education or work experience in journalism or communication. Consider appropriate programs in your area or online. Apart from that, you could also take some focused short-term courses online, apply for a relevant certification, and join a professional organization.

### Courses

Taking a writing or editing course is a good way to hone your skills and test your mettle:

#### Courses and webinars by the American Copy Editors Society (ACES)

ACES, together with The Poynter Institute's News University, offers courses on the fundamentals of editing, the art and science of editing, accuracy, clarity, language, and more.

[aceseditors.org/training/online-training](http://aceseditors.org/training/online-training)

#### Online learning by the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA)

AMWA provides on-demand videos, resource material, and interactive learning activities. Topics include an overview of regulatory writing, best practices for writing CME needs assessments, and steps towards a career in medical communication.

[amwa.mycrowdwisdom.com/diweb/catalog/item/id/1049840](http://amwa.mycrowdwisdom.com/diweb/catalog/item/id/1049840)

#### Course offerings by R Upskill

R Upskill, a comprehensive learning solution, offers courses that focus on empowering researchers with key skills for 360-degree professional and personal growth. Courses on research writing, research promotion, and career development are useful not just for researchers but also for those helping them communicate their science better. New courses are added regularly.

[upskill.researcher.life/](http://upskill.researcher.life/)

### Certifications

A number of editorial or medical writing societies conduct exams and certify those who pass. Credentials help you earn respect in the industry.

#### Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS)

This US-based organization administers two examinations—one for certification (ELS) and one for diplomate status (ELS(D)). Exams are conducted in various cities and countries.

[bels.org](http://bels.org)

## The Editors' Association of Canada (Editors Canada)

Editors Canada offers five credentials in editing and proofreading. The highest of these is Certified Professional Editor (CPE).

[editors.ca/professional-development/certification](http://editors.ca/professional-development/certification)

## The International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP)

ISMPP has implemented a certification program that offers medical publication professionals an opportunity to earn the Certified Medical Publication Professional™ (CMPP™) credential. This credential is valid for three years.

[ismpp.org/certification](http://ismpp.org/certification)

## Professional organizations

Join a professional organization to engage with a community, develop networks, get promoted to prospective clients, receive training/guidance, and stay abreast of the latest developments.

Some prominent societies:

- American Copy Editors Society (ACES): [aceseditors.org](http://aceseditors.org)
- American Medical Writers Association (AMWA): [amwa.org/default.aspx](http://amwa.org/default.aspx)
- Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading (CIEP): [ciep.uk](http://ciep.uk)
- Council of Science Editors (CSE): [councilscienceeditors.org](http://councilscienceeditors.org)
- Editorial Freelancers Association (EFA): [the-efa.org](http://the-efa.org)
- European Association of Science Editors (EASE): [ease.org.uk](http://ease.org.uk)
- European Medical Writers Association (EMWA): [emwa.org](http://emwa.org)
- International Society of Managing & Technical Editors (ISMTE): [ismte.org/default.aspx](http://ismte.org/default.aspx)
- International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP): [ismpp.org](http://ismpp.org)

## Apply directly

Lastly, there's nothing stopping you from applying directly for a job in science communication. At the very least, it will show you where you stand.

# Science. Technology. Global. Impact.

Founded in 2002, Cactus Communications ([cactusglobal.com](http://cactusglobal.com)) is a technology company accelerating scientific advancement. CACTUS solves problems for researchers, universities, publishers, academic societies, and life science organizations through innovative products and services developed under the brands Editage, Cactus Life Sciences, R, Impact Science, UNSILO, and CACTUS Labs. CACTUS has offices in Princeton, London, Aarhus, Singapore, Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, Tokyo, and Mumbai; a global workforce of over 3,000; and customers from over 190 countries. CACTUS is considered a pioneer in its workplace best practices and has been consistently ranked a great place to work over the last several years.



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