

Dieudonné van de Willige

Contact me via dieudonnee.net

I combine my scientific background with a track record in communication. In doing so, I so far strived to innovate science communication at and by universities.

My natural drive to improve processes is now turning my focus to better understanding management.



Positions

2023 – current: Project Manager, Maastricht University (Faculty of Science and Engineering)

Since July 2023, I take on general project management while remaining in my role as science communications advisor part-time. My goal is to better learn how institutions function and to leverage this knowledge to create increasingly impactful plans.

2022 – current: Science Communications Advisor, Maastricht University (Faculty of Science and Engineering)

I'm tasked with setting up science communication for the whole faculty. This includes setting up strategy, infrastructure, and policy, as well as hands-on work.

In addition to my expert role, I'm the designated team lead replacement, taking over supervision and representation of our broadly-skilled Marketing & Communications team of 12 people during moments our main team lead is unavailable.

2020 – current: Board member, SciCom NL (www.scicom.nl)

SciCom NL is one of the main Dutch associations for science communication. I serve on the board as a general secretary.

2018 – 2022: Communications advisor/editor, Maastricht University (Department of Data Science and Knowledge Engineering)

Broad communications support – including internal and external communication – with a focus on research communication.

Note: the department has since changed its name to Department of Advanced Computing Sciences.

2013 – 2018: PhD student, Utrecht University

I completed my PhD research in molecular neurobiology under supervision of Prof. Dr. Anna Akhmanova and Prof. Dr. Casper Hoogenraad. During this time, I experimented with various forms of science communication as well.

2012 – 2016: Columnist, De Telegraaf

During my master's studies and PhD research, I wrote weekly columns for the regional supplement of De Telegraaf (print run approx. 25,000 copies). 89% of readers enjoyed reading my columns according to a poll among 1,000 subscribers.

2012: Columnist, DUB

I won the first column writing competition of DUB, Utrecht University's independent news outlet. My prize included one year of being featured as their dedicated 'campus columnist'.

Reviewerships

Note: this list only contains publicly acknowledged reviewer positions.

2023: Action plan for the National Centre of Expertise on Science & Society – The Netherlands (*Nationaal Expertisecentrum Wetenschap en Samenleving: Plan van aanpak*)

The [advisory report](#) outlines the contours of a national expertise centre for science communication as commissioned by the Dutch government.

2022: Science Communication by Scientists: Rewarded! (*Wetenschapscommunicatie door Wetenschappers: Gewaardeerd!*)

The [Rewarded! guide](#), published by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, helps knowledge institutions to recognize and reward scientists who are structurally involved in science communication and public engagement activities.

Diplomas and certificates

2013 – 2018: PhD in Molecular Neurobiology, Utrecht University

PhD thesis: '[Anatomy of the axon: dissecting the role of microtubule plus-end tracking proteins in axons of hippocampal neurons](#)'.

Publications cited >200 times as of 2022.

2011 – 2013: Master of Science (MSc) in Molecular & Cellular Life Sciences, Utrecht University

Including a minor track in Science Communication and Education and an extracurricular honours track. Graduated cum laude with a GPA of 4.0/average grade of 8.68.

2008 – 2011: Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Chemistry, Utrecht University

Including an extracurricular honours track. Graduated cum laude with a GPA of 4.0/average grade of 8.29.

2006: Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)

Grade A. Written and spoken English at CEFR level C1.

Competences

Main skills:

Understanding and opening up complex science, working in scientific environments, strategic advising, writing and editing (native in Dutch and near-native in English).

Tools:

For graphics and print: Adobe CS (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign). For web: Drupal, Wordpress (Elementor, Wordpress editor). For video: Adobe Premiere Pro (editing) and OBS Studio (streaming).

Personal:

Sharp-minded, self-starter, engaged, analytical and creative.