

19 Bowden Road, L19 1QN - Liverpool, UK
acarolcolombo@gmail.com / +44 0757 718 7908

March 20, 2022

Dear Bérénice, Emmy, Malvika, and Yo, and Members of the Recruitment Team,

I'm excited to apply for the Community Researcher and Programme Coordinator position at Open Life Science (OLS). This opportunity combines my passions for science and communication, supporting transparent and collaborative research through mentoring and education programmes.

I believe mentoring and education can lead to a more diverse and equal science. That is why I'm currently working as a Programme Intern at In2scienceUK, a social mobility charity supporting students to pursue STEM careers and PhDs. In2scienceUK is a fully remote organisation, so doing my job well requires proactivity, efficient peer communication, and consistent task management. Their supportive team empowered me to put in place my ideas to improve communication with volunteers and alumni through newsletter content development, webinar organisation, and website rebranding. I also automated the collection of contact information from websites with a Python script, a previously labour-intensive manual task. I have been writing a detailed manual so that it can continue to be implemented after I leave the organisation.

In the past few years, I have been volunteering in educational settings such as the World Museum (Liverpool) and Lyon Arboretum (Honolulu). During my Bachelor's degree, I was part of the committee that organised a one-week scientific event for Biology undergraduates of talks and workshops with invited researchers and biologists from distinct organisations. We defined, planned, invited, and ran the event while coordinating the schedule with lodging and transportation of the speakers. These were efforts to improve science communication and outreach, support and learn with these organisations, and give back to the community.

My research has resulted in seven published scientific papers with different research groups covering complex topics such as neuroscience and behaviour, and fungal infection and extracellular vesicles. I worked on different projects simultaneously during my PhD, from concept to delivery. I had to adapt, document, and replan according to the results and coordinate with coworkers to meet deadlines. These experiences allowed me to develop the skills to manage projects and align my collaborators' expectations with deadlines.

During my PhD, I had my first contact with Open Science. Even though I didn't have the resources, support, and time to shift and invest in skills that would allow me to make my science more open, I still published my PhD work in open-access. I want to contribute with Open Life Science to communicate with researchers and give the support that they need to make their science open. The support that I lacked at the time. Also, making science open can contribute to more opportunities for researchers who don't have access to lots of resources, a common case in developing countries, such as Brazil, where I came from.

That is why after my PhD, I started learning how to code and use GitHub ([@acarolcolombo](#)) for open projects like the development of my website and my CV. I also see this job opportunity as a way to reconnect with my life science and research background, develop my coordination and coding skills, and assist people like me who haven't had the support or enough knowledge to make their science more transparent and collaborative. I want to contribute with clear and engaging communication with participants and alumni to make the programmes run smoothly while helping them shape their community.

Qualitative research focused on seeing the impact of the programme within the OLS community and its contextual networks is essential to measure the programme's success and define the next step forward. There is evidence that shows diversity breeding innovation, but innovation brought by minorities has usually been discounted by the scientific community, which is a paradox ([DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1915378117](#)). Less has been done about improving this uptake, and the OLS mission is tackling this issue. With a programme that connects people from around the world with different backgrounds, the goal is to give opportunities with few resources and build networks so that science can be a more equal field. However, this hypothesis has to be confirmed with data. I'm excited about the challenge of this project because its results will give us a perspective not only for the open science community but also for diversity in science as a whole.

I'm interested in a full-time position; however, I would be happy to accept a part-time offer if the OLS team prefers to have two staff as part-time. I really enjoyed and admired the healthy, positive, inclusive, and creative environment of the organisation, and I want to be part of, learn, and share ideas with the team.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ana Caroline Colombo