Dr Kirsty McGhee

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Writing portfolio: kirstymcg.github.io

WRITING EXPERIENCE

Scientific/technical writer & marketing manager **January 2024 – present**

Qruise GmbH · Berlin (remote)

- Sole marketing and communications writer at Qruise, a company developing tools to accelerate scientific research, with a strong focus on quantum computing.
- Own and maintain the company's public-facing technical documentation end to end, including structure, information architecture, and content written in Markdown and Git.
- Write and edit technical blog posts, website copy, product pages, news articles, and release notes for a specialist scientific audience.
- Initiated and authored a technical blog series on key challenges in quantum computing, including literature-based background research and coordination of accompanying graphics.
- Led a redesign of the company website, restructuring content and collaborating closely with designers and developers to improve clarity and usability.
- Manage the company's LinkedIn, X, and Bluesky presence, writing posts, coordinating graphics, and engaging with the scientific and technical community.

Research Update writer **August 2021 – January 2024**

Physics World · UK & Germany (remote)

- I wrote *Research Updates* on exciting papers in the field, with the aim of explaining new research in simpler terms to make it accessible and interesting to non-specialists.

Scientific writer **November 2021 – August 2022**

Ossila Ltd. · UK remote)

- I wrote scientific content for the *Ossila* website, explaining important physical concepts and mechanisms relevant to the optical properties of organic semiconductors, spectroscopy and spectrometers.
- I also created accompanying graphics (schematics, diagrams and experimental data) to make the resources as clear and useful to other scientists as possible.

ACADEMIC CAREER & EDUCATION

November 2022 – present

Universität Leipzig – Postdoctoral researcher

Semiconductor Physics Group, Felix Bloch Institute for Solid State Physics

- My project concerned the experimental study of light-matter coupling in copper halide microcavities, which I fabricate, characterise and analyse myself.
- I wrote a research proposal for the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* on strong coupling in copper halides.

2018 – 2022

University of Sheffield, UK – PhD student

Electronic and Photonic Molecular Materials group

My project looked to further the understanding of organic-based optical microcavities for polariton lasers and quantum batteries. This included the design,

fabrication and measurement of all my own samples. I also travelled to Politecnico di Milano several times to undertake further measurements.

2014 – 2018 **University of Manchester, UK – MPhys (Hons) Physics**
First class degree with a year abroad at the University of Massachusetts, USA

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Teamwork & project management

- During my PhD, I participated in many national and international collaborations, which resulted in several publications in renowned scientific journals.
- I am able to work closely and personally with colleagues in my own department and collaborators at other institutions, successfully establishing and maintaining working relationships.
- These collaborations have ranged from visiting a research group for weeks at a time and working together in the labs, to entirely remote communication.

Data analysis & presentation

- I analyse and process all of my own data using MATLAB, Python, OriginPro, and other specialised programs.
- I am also proficient in LaTeX and MS Office, which I use to clearly and attractively present my work.
- I have presented my research at national and international conferences through well-received posters and talks.

Teaching & mentoring

2019 – 2022

- I taught new students and post-docs how to use various lab equipment and programs, helping them develop their skills and enhance their knowledge.
- I guided the newer PhD students through the earlier stages of their research, advising them on the future direction of their projects and mentoring them on the path to becoming successful researchers.
- I taught in undergraduate labs and workshops, where I was responsible for teaching, supporting and grading undergraduate students in experimental lab work, reports, and other important skills such as presenting scientific talks, programming, and writing literature reviews.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & SCIENCE WRITING

- **McGhee, K. E.** A century of Compton scattering. *Nature Reviews Physics* (2023).
- **Kirsty McGhee,** Exciton-polaritons enhance magneto-optical responses in van der Waals crystals, *Physics World*, 02 Sep 2023, https://physicsworld.com/a/exciton-polaritons-enhance-magneto-optical-responses-in-van-der-waals-crystals/
- For further work, see https://kirstymcg.github.io

LANGUAGES

- Native English speaker
- German (~C1)