

LECTURERS WITHOUT BORDERS TOWARDS AIRBNB FOR LECTURERS

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Lecturers without borders

Lecturers without borders matches scientists with schools so that more teenagers hear inspiring talks on science around the world

Motivation and philosophy

- Teenagers often lack motivation to study science and are not aware of the state-of-the-art science
- High-school teachers are mostly not scientists themselves and cannot adequately motivate their students
- Schools are interested to motivate students and give additional training to teachers
- Many scientists (master and PhD students, PostDocs and professors) would like to give outreach lectures and frequently travel to different cities
- Lecturers without borders matches scientists with schools: scientists give lectures to high-school students while travelling on professional or personal purposes

Achievements and experience

2017 Foundation of Lecturers without border

~100 Registered lecturers

27 Lectures organized

Partners

















Matching and coordination

Professional full-time manual coordination will be a middle step before launching an automated Airbnb-like platform

Current matching and coordination process



- Personal email with travel information
- · Waiting for instructions



- Hands-on matching and coordination
- Heavy workload for the founder of LwB



- Personal contacts with unclear internal coordinator
- Waiting for support

Optimal process – Airbnb for lecturers



- Regular update of travel information
- Defined process to plan a lecture



- Airbnb-like platform for matching
- Limited personal support for special situations



- Dedicated internal coordinator
- Proacitve communication with the lecturer

Need for schools in every region and defined experience-based processes

Transition period: full-time professional coordination

- For transition period LwB needs a dedicated person
 - to expand the school database
 - to match existing lecturers with new schools and to coordinate the lectures
- Dedicated person will work fulltime:
 - ca. 60% of the time for the school database expansion
 - ca. 40% of the time for coordination
- Transition period will last 1 year
- Throughout the year, processes will be documented
- The database of lecturers will be expanded once there are enough schools to cover potential travel destinations with 80% probability

School database expansion

In every big city schools schould be found and qualified in a comprehensive interview process

Goals	Expanding the school database with appropriate schools from ca. 100 to 500-1000 ¹
KPIs	Number of added schools, school response rate

City analysis

- After preliminary research on scientists' frequent destinations, school landscape of every destination should be studied
- Sources of information are
 - LwB network
 - Other (local) educational networks
 - Local community and educational media
- Per destination 2-3 probably appropriate schools are chosen

School interviews

- 2-3 chosen schools run through a comprehensive interview process (via Skype etc., ~30 minutes)
- Schools schould qualify to following criteria:
 - Good level of science education
 - English-speaking students (local languages also possible)
 - Accessible location
 - Support by the head of the school
 - Dedicated person
 - Time and energy for coordination
 - Good English
 - Support at school

Database entry

- Appropriate schools are documented in a database (currently, Airtable)
- Information allows lecturers to choose a right school and get in contact (though for the first year matching can be done by LwB – see next slide):
 - Focus of the school
 - Special notes about students
 - Logistical details
 - Contacts

Lecturers withour borders

¹ There are ~500 cities with over 1.000.000 citizens in the world.

Coordination in the transition period In the transition period lectures will be coordinated manually in order to establish a working process

Goals	Coordinate ~3-5 lectures per month, gather process experience, refine frequent destinations list
KPIs	Number of coordinated lectures, quality of lecturers' and schools' feedback

Gathering information from lecturers

- Registered scientists send information on their travel plans and give preliminary dates for a lecture
- LwB actively requests travels information only from a small group of active scientists
- After the 1st year and the expansion of the school database, scientists travel information will be requested regularly

Lecture scheduling and coordination

- LwB coordinator
 - searches for schools in the travel destination sites – either in the database or through the schoolsearching process (see previous slide)
 - connects the school contact person with the scientist and lets them agree on the lecture topics, stundents group and exact time
 - coordinates the process until the lecture, supporting both the scientist and the school

Follow-up

- Feedback is gathered from the scientist and the school (incl. feedback from students, teachers and other people involved)
- · Process and feedback are documented
- Scientist and school information can be ammended after a lecture experience
- List and prioritization of frequent destionations can be ammended

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Coordinator position requirements Coordinator should support the idea, have background in education, a good command of English and be emphatic

Personal requirements

- Interest for education in general and enthusiasm about LwB activities
- Interest for long-term involvement with LwB
- Communicative competence, empathy and patience (for communication with lecturers and schools)
- Good analytical abilities

Professional requirements

- Very good command of English
- Good computer skills (esp. for communication and documentation)
- Small project management skills

Working conditions

- Remote work possible
- Part-time work possible