

Jonathan Tennant
27 Paget Street
Aylestone
Leicester
LE2 8SP
E-mail: jon.tennant.2@gmail.com
Mobile: +447921252367
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Dear Mozilla Science Lab,

I am writing to you to convey my interest in the position of Mozilla Fellow for Science. I am currently in the very final stages of my PhD research, based at Imperial College London. I am a palaeontologist by training, a freelance science communicator, and fervent open science promoter.

During my PhD, I have relentlessly pushed for better open science practices, as I strongly believe that open science is just good science. I started my PhD with the intention to prove that you could practice open science, especially by publishing open access, and still maintain a successful career. For the last four years, this mind set has driven my daily research practices, and I have strived to be as open as possible in all that I do.

My experience in the world of open science is mostly around the issues concerning open access and scholarly publishing, but I have experience delivering talks and events concerning open data, open peer review, and reproducible research. Most recently, I published a review paper with F1000 Research about the evidence behind open access publishing, in order to help provide a stronger foundation for education and discussion about this important topic. My intention behind this was to write one of the 'most open papers ever', as the invitation to help write it was completely open, the peer reviews were open, and of course the article itself is open.

Most recently, I have been working with ScienceOpen in Berlin while in the final phase of my PhD. This position involved advocating for open science on a daily basis, and showed that I am fully capable of doing this while maintaining a strong research career. Indeed, the combination of my work in science communication, primary research, and open science advocacy has led to my receipt of the prestigious Janet Watson award in our department for excellence during my PhD. As well as this, I have been invited to both OpenCon and SciFoo twice in row in recognition of my efforts in promoting open science. I've been invited to give numerous talks about the various aspects of open science, have been interviewed several times recently about my thoughts on it, and have been invited to keynote the ISMTE meeting this year in Brussels to discuss open publishing.

While in Berlin, I have helped to establish and lead the Berlin Open Science Meetup. This has been in conjunction with members of the Mozilla Open Leadership Cohort, and we are currently testing reproducible research workshops to see what open skills we can teach the research community here. Recently, I also organised the Berlin global Mozilla sprint, and am in discussions with OpenAIRE and Digital Science about hosting a large OpenCon satellite event this year in Berlin.

I intend to strengthen my skills in the immediate future by attending the Open Knowledge Foundation's Leader's program in Berlin. My intention is to use the skills I learn here to help strengthen my community building skills, as well as the skills I need in order to help teach researchers more open science practices. In addition, I intend to apply for the Wikimedia

Deutschland Open Science Program, most likely in order to start building and delivering a more impactful workshop series on reproducible research.

My vision for the Fellowship is to split my time between Berlin and London, where I can leverage both my institutional position and work position to keep building open communities, and continuing to educate researchers about open skills. One idea of a project that I've had is to link the core database I've used for my PhD, the Palaeobiology Database, and R to create a 'living webpage' that illustrates the diversity of life through time. Based on my experience and skills in the general field of open science, my relevant interests, and my intent to pursue an open science oriented career, I believe that I am a strong candidate for the position. I look forward to discussing the Fellowship more with you in the future.

Kind regards,

Jon Tennant