

# James Banks

Address: Plant Sciences Department  
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Date of birth: 29/04/1982

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## EDUCATION

- 2005 – present     **PhD Plant Biochemistry, University of York**  
Molecular determination of sodium/calcium transporters across the vacuolar membrane of *beta vulgaris*
- 2004 – 2005        **MRes Environmental Management, University of Birmingham**
- 2000 – 2003        **BSc (hons) Zoology, University of Manchester**
- 1994 - 2000        **Highgrave School, York**  
A-levels: Biology (C), Chemistry (C), Maths (B), General Studies (B)  
AS level: Further Maths (C)  
10 GCSE passes grades A\* - C, including Maths and English.
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## SCIENCE COMMUNICATION EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

### National Science Week (2005/6)

The Biology Department staged a week-long science event for local school children for which I took a small role in 2005 and then a larger organisational role in 2006. My main activities and responsibilities included:

- Designed and organised fun and simple science experiments for school children between 4 and 11.
- Performed interactive science demonstrations for the public (mainly schoolchildren).
- Took a lead role in marketing and advertising the event to local schools and the public using posters and flyers.
- Liaised with the local press to inform them of the event and acting as a contact for journalists and photographers.
- Followed up the events with letters to schools who took part.

### University Open Days

- Provided tours for potential students around the Biology department and demonstrated a basic experiment to them and their parents to inspire them to choose the university.

## **Oral and written presentations**

- Excellent written ability developed through writing my thesis and co-writing papers and posters for presentation.
- Good oral presentation skills. I have presented my work as a poster three times at scientific conferences as well as delivering a talk in the UK. I have also made presentation within my department.

## **Teaching and Supervising**

- Supervised a summer student during my 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Organised and planned their work; managed them on a day-to-day basis and explained scientific facts to them.
- Taught a small tutorial group of 6 second year students for three sessions during my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as part of a Plant Molecular Biology Module. Prepared problem-based lectures to assist them with their understanding of the lectures and practicals.
- Acted as a supervisor in practicals throughout my PhD and also during my masters course.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Voluntary Work (Jan 2004 – June 2004)**

Worked on two projects with i2i:

1. Conservation work in Equador.
2. Teaching English to children (age 9 – 11). This required excellent organisational skills as well as being creative and flexible.

### **Casual Work (Summer 2002/2003/2004)**

Mixture of retail and bar work to subsidise my study costs.

## **INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Tennis, rugby and football: 2<sup>nd</sup> team captain (rugby) and 1<sup>st</sup> team member.

Represented my hall of residence in pool and table-tennis competitions.

Travelling in Europe and in Equador

## **REFEREES**

Professor Polly Richardson  
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