

JACOB ASHTON

CURRICULUM VITAE

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am an accomplished and experienced researcher, communicator, and project manager with a strong scientific foundation. I am especially enthusiastic about the environment and conservation.

CAREER

Independent Freelancer

Full-time, 04/2023 - present | Part-time, 06/2019 - 04/2023

I provide research and communications services for clients across the science and environment sectors:

- **Futurum Careers Ltd:** I have written over 130 articles and activity sheets for secondary schools, translating cutting-edge and complex scientific information into inspirational educational materials.
- **Hannah Fry:** I undertake in-depth research into scientific subjects and provide concise, accurate summaries for a radio and television presenter.
- **Amasia:** I undertake thorough research into climate change spokespeople for a pair of podcasts.
- **Kanop:** I write tailored newsletters and social media material on the carbon accounting market.
- **Raising Coral Costa Rica:** I present the team's scientific findings through engaging press releases and articles.
- **Others:** I write articles, blog posts, press releases, scripts, and a range of other content for clients including academics, eco-adventure organisations, consultancy agencies, and YouTube channels.

Mindfully Wired Communications (MWC)

Science & Policy Projects Co-Manager, 09/2021 - 04/2023

Communications & Policy Officer, 01/2019 - 08/2021

MWC is a marine environmental communications consultancy that works with many high-impact organisations to provide services on the themes of sustainable fisheries and marine conservation.

Project Management

- Co-managed a team of five, including role development and capacity management.
- Created, reviewed, copy edited, and proofread a wide variety of written communications outputs
- Managed a diverse portfolio of projects, including strategic planning and output delivery:
 - **UK Blue Carbon Forum** (*NGO/academic/policy collective advancing blue carbon research*)
 - **APPG on Fisheries** (*All Party Parliamentary Group connecting politicians with fisheries stakeholders*)
 - **ECOWind** (*multi-institutional programme researching Environmental Consequences of Offshore Wind*)

Ongoing project responsibilities

- Secretariat duties, including organising and reporting on public events and meetings, liaising with Management Groups and Expert Panels, and supporting strategic development.
- Creating high-level policy briefs or reports for professional and lay audiences.
- Content creation and review for websites, newsletters, press releases, articles, and social media.

Further MWC project work

- Managed the development of the AC FishMap, an interactive map tool for fisheries and environmental stakeholders, and created associated communications materials.
- Proofread materials for the Marine Stewardship Council, DG MARE, and The Seafarers' Charity.
- Rapporteur and reported on meetings of the North Sea, Pelagic, and South Western Waters Advisory Councils, and the National Marine Parks Steering Group.
- Organised and ran the Thames Estuary Partnership's Annual Forum in the Tower of London.
- For the RSPB, created a policy brief on the effects of offshore wind on seabirds.
- Edited the acclaimed Fathom podcast.

Journeyman Pictures

Production Assistant, 04/2018 - 09/2018

Head of Optimisation, 09/2018 - 04/2019

Journeyman Pictures is a leading global documentary distributor.

- Managed the acquisition, preparation, publication, and distribution of extended news pieces.
- Undertook digital preparation, optimisation, and publication of over 1000 archive documentaries.
- Recorded and edited voice-over tracks and created subtitle files.

Golfo Dulce Retreat

Biologist-in-Residence, 07/2016 - 09/2016, 09/2017 - 12/2017

Golfo Dulce Retreat is an off-grid ecolodge on the edge of Piedras Blancas National Park, Costa Rica.

- Managed the Retreat's social media presence and wrote blog posts for their website.
- Took extensive videos and photographs and produced short nature documentaries.
- Undertook field research, guided guests, and tutored children.

Further relevant experience

- Talesmith TV - work experience in research and development of wildlife documentaries (02/2018).
- Cambridge Sustainable Food - creation of publicity materials, event management, and liaison with businesses (07/2017-09/2017).
- Cam FM 97.2 - researching, writing, and presenting a weekly science radio show (10/2019-05/2017).
- Publicity/coordination roles for the Pembroke College Green Society, Cambridge Climate and Sustainability Forum, The Stokes (Science) Society, and the Cambridge University Wind Orchestra.
- Conservation volunteering for the Great Fen Project and British Dragonfly Survey, and acting as a young leader for a young people's conservation group.
- Held the role of Chair in a housing co-operative in Bristol for a year and a half.
- I write award-winning short stories, typically in the eco-fiction genre.

EDUCATION

University of Cambridge, UK

Natural Sciences (Zoology) MA (2014-2017)

1st-class Honours in all three years

Modules included: Responses to Global Change, Conservation Science, Applied Ecology

The King's (The Cathedral) School, UK

A-Levels (2014): 3 A*s, 3 As

GCSEs (2012): 13 A*s

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Project Management - Informal PRINCE2 training

Spanish - Advanced and improving

Computer Experience - Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Suite (Premiere Pro, Audition, Photoshop), Canva, Squarespace, Wordpress, Google Drive, OneDrive

Scuba Diving - PADI Rescue Diver

Music - ABRSM Grade 8 Trombone, Grade 6 Piano

Driving - Full clean UK driving licence

REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST