

Roving Scientists

Beaker Street Festival 2022

[Beaker Street Festival](#) is the annual celebration of science and art, and Australia's premier National Science Week event for adults.

Are you a PhD candidate, post-doc, academic, science communicator, non-academic scientist, or working in a STEMM field?

We Want YOU as a Roving Scientist!

We are seeking Roving Scientists for the following two stations:

1. **The Roving Scientist Bar**, where each scientist (working alone or in a pair) will have a table or station, and visitors can stop by to chat about your research or take part in a hands-on activity. Even if you're just there to chat, we'll ask all scientists to bring a prop as an icebreaker. Visitors to the bar will be encouraged to take part in "Beaker Bingo," to help get the conversations going. More details below.

2. **The Microscopy & Oddities Station**, where visitors can stop by to look at a selection of interesting specimens - some under a microscope and some with the naked eye. This is a great option for people who are keen science communicators, whether or not you have your own research to discuss. If you're not sure you're proficient enough with a microscope, no worries - we'll offer a training session. It's easy, and this is a great way to engage with lots of different people at the event. (It will be Covid-safe too.)

The time slots are between 1 hr and 1hr 15min, but we'd love for you to stay longer at the event with your badge on and do some actual "roving," which just means being available to chat with people in various areas of the museum.

How to sign up:

Complete this [form](#) and let us know when you ARE NOT available. We will also need some additional information, including:

- Are you working alone or in a pair? (If in a pair, both people need to complete the form and tell us the name of the person you will be working with.)
- If you're signing up for the Roving Scientist Bar, suggest a research question we can use to create a program to display outside of the Bar. (For example, you could write "How do bees find flowers?" or "How does a computer chip work?")
- If you have been a Beaker Street Roving Scientist before, whether you will need a new LED name badge. (We can supply new batteries for your old one when you arrive at the event, if needed). If you need a new one, indicate your research keyword for the badge - max 25 characters, and ideally something attention grabbing ("Sex Lives of Ducks" for example).

Roving Scientist Bar

If you want to be in the Roving Scientist Bar, please let us know what you'd like to do in there. For example, will you chat about your research? Organise a hands-on activity? You may want to do some interpretative dancing to teach the public? Create a Sea Shanty about your work?

Let us know what you will need to make it happen: A sink? A lab bench? A microscope?

We can accommodate most ideas, and we're hoping to have a range of offerings. Be creative! The weirder the better. A good way to think about it is to imagine what would your talent be if we were organising a science talent show, can you bring that to the bar?

If it's just you and your brilliant ideas, that's great too. But please bring something to show people, even if it's as simple as a photograph.

Contact and last things

Tim Gibbons is coordinating these spaces, and can answer any questions you might have. Please contact him if you want to chat about any of this on tim@beakerstreet.com.au. He will be in touch closer to the date of the event with everything you need to know and organise an induction.

Please feel free to share this with any scientists who might be interested. Note however that Covid restrictions mean we're working with reduced capacity at TMAG. If you're interested in being a Roving Scientist this year, please sign up soon.

As always, please get in touch with any suggestions, ideas, etc. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in August! (Check out the full program at www.beakerstreet.com.au)