



Royal Society of
Biology

**Dr Emily
May
Armstrong**

  **Bioscience**
  **Careers Day**





**DR. EMILY MAY
ARMSTRONG**

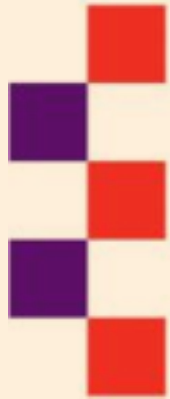
science communication



2012-2015: University of Essex BSc (Hons) Genetics

2016-2020: PhD 'Epigenetic regulation of tissue specific transcription in Arabidopsis' – University of Glasgow

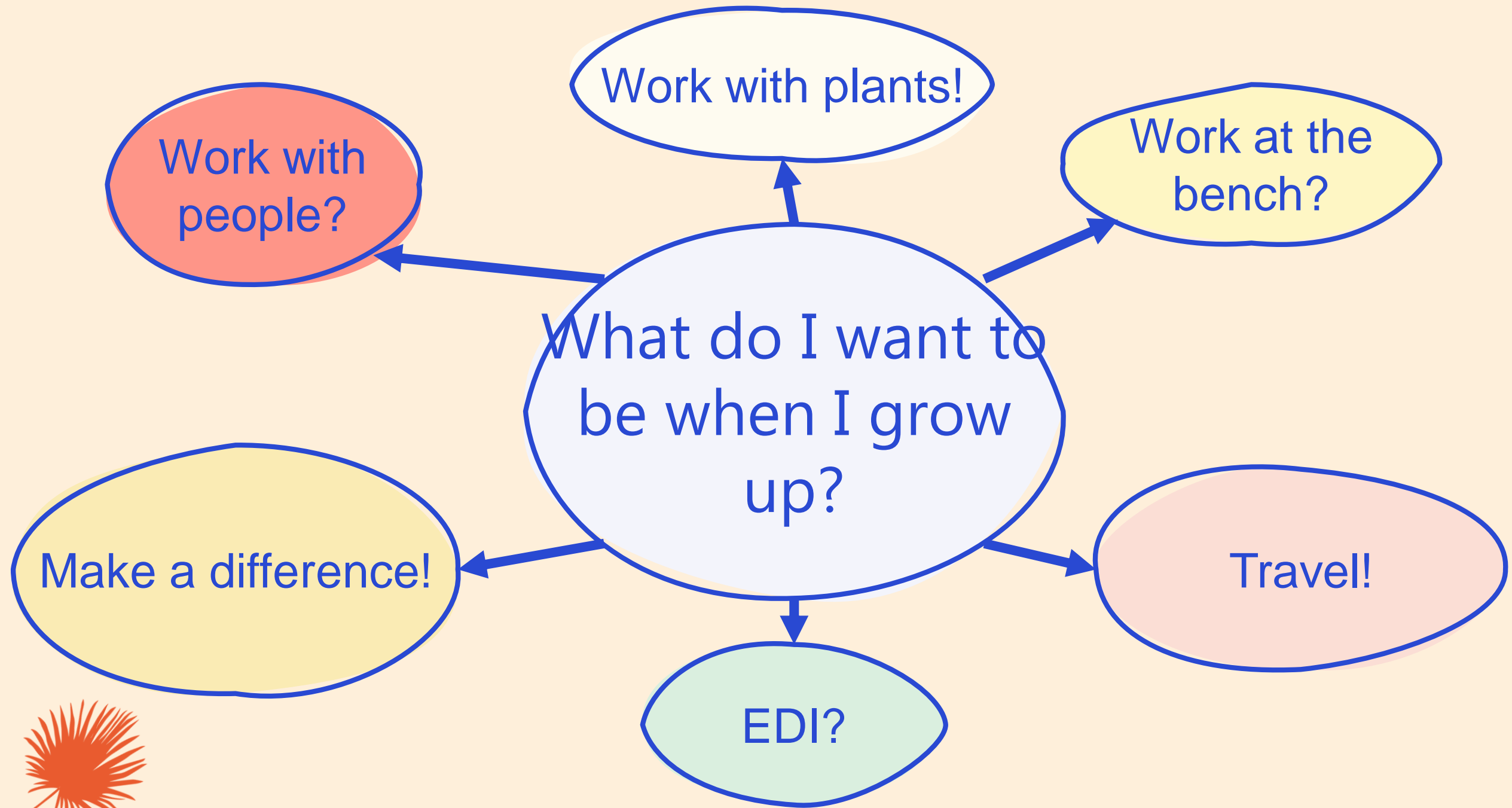
2012



University of Essex

'15-'16 University of Glasgow MSc (Res)





2012-2015: University of Essex BSc (Hons) Genetics

2016-2020: PhD 'Epigenetic regulation of tissue specific gene expression in Arabidopsis' – University of Glasgow

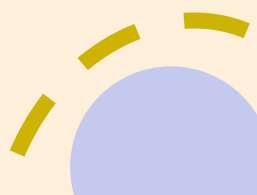
Hip dislocation

Diagnosis

'15-'16 Glasgow MSc (Res)
Oops my legs stopped working

ADHD diagnosis

Nerve damage, heart condition



2012-2015: University of Essex BSc (Hons) Genetics

2016-2020: PhD 'Epigenetic regulation of tissue specific'

Volunteer social media management for institute

Education

Video production commission for EDI in conferences

Diagnosis

'15-'16
Class

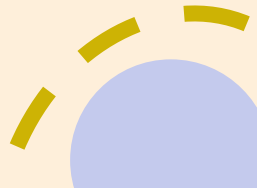
Oops my legs stopped

Fascination of Plants Day

Impact in 60 Seconds Winner, Biochem comp winner

Damage, condition

Ethics & Environment Officer



2021

6 month postdoc

University of Bristol –
100 Plant Science
Questions

Plant Cell Environment
Assistant Features Editor
2020-2022

2022

Glasgow Seed Library,
Hidden Gardens,
Deveron, etc

SEB-funded EDI work at
University of Glasgow

Finished working for
100PSQs project

2023

EDI work at the
University of Glasgow

Siren Calling – NOC,
Gatsby

CONNECTED Plant Virus
Network Policy



Who have I worked with?



16NSt



What is a portfolio career like anyway?

Requires a lot of
organisational skills

No week (or day) is the
same

I get to travel around the UK &
beyond

Your interests will shift and grow
over time – you can follow your
nose



What is working as a science communication freelancer like?

Really enjoyable & rewarding!

Training scientists about communication is fun!

Constantly networking and looking for new opportunities

Meet new people, work with diverse organisations, go to new places

Requires a lot of active writing for grants, bids, tenders



Ways to be a science communicator

Working as a journalist
or in the media

Medical writing and
communications agency

In-house science
communicator for charity (e.g.
Cancer Research)

Freelance/self employed
communications training

Working in a museum or
cultural sector (e.g. Natural
History, Wellcome Collection)

Press office/relations

Working at a scientific
journal



What skills do I need?

Audience awareness

Top-notch oral and written communication skills

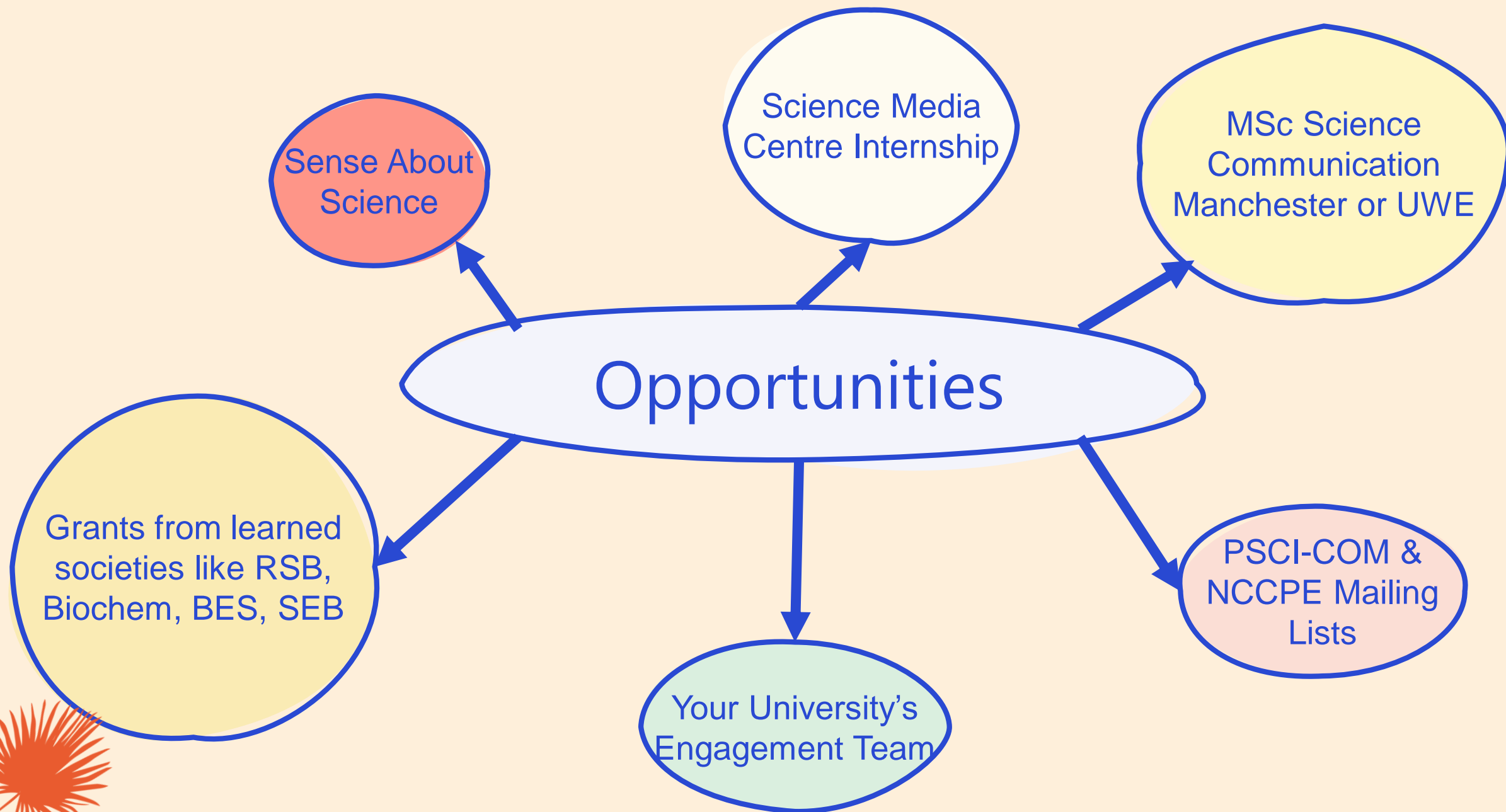
Media production & editing skills: filming, editing, audio, graphics

Personable, able to network & engage with new people

A drive to make a difference

Willingness to put yourself out there and be a bit weird!





Sense About Science

Science Media Centre Internship

MSc Science Communication Manchester or UWE

Opportunities

Grants from learned societies like RSB, Biochem, BES, SEB

PSCI-COM & NCCPE Mailing Lists

Your University's Engagement Team



Questions & discussion

@emayarmstrong

@emilyxarmstrong

www.emilymayarmstrong.com