



# Question of Taste – call for demonstrators

A workshop designed for students studying post-16 biology.  
Using PCR to investigate human evolution.

The Public Programmes Team based at The Nowgen Centre are looking to recruit and train demonstrators to deliver their highly successful and renowned ‘Question of Taste’ workshops for schools.

2015-16 Academic Year

In partnership with:



Manchester  
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# Question of Taste workshops

## Using PCR to investigate human evolution

### A hands-on workshop for post-16 biology students

2015-16 Academic Year

These one-day workshop explores the evolution of an unusual trait, where some people taste a particular chemical as being horribly bitter, while others can't taste it at all. Why have we evolved these two responses? What evolutionary advantage could each have given us?

Students work with their own DNA to classify themselves into one of three common genotypes and then compare their DNA sequence with that of a chimpanzee, helping them to understand convergent evolution between the two species.

The workshop is led by the Public Programmes Team and run with research students from The University of Manchester. It is delivered in the Nowgen Laboratory, Grafton St., on the Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust site.

## Workshop content

School groups participating in the workshops will cover the following areas:

- Key genetic terms (dominant, recessive, homozygote, heterozygote and more)
- DNA and the genetic code
- Genetic variation
- Classifying organisms
- Variation, adaptation and evolution

Groups will gain practical experience of:

- Isolating DNA
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
- Use of restriction enzymes
- Gel electrophoresis
- Interpreting DNA gels

Demonstrators will be allocated to cover each workshop on a first come, first served basis.

Each workshop runs from 10.00am-3.00pm, with participants having a 1 hour lunch break. Demonstrators will be expected to set-up and clear away the session.

Each student group will be accompanied by a teacher who is responsible for their students.

### Application details:

Please submit a short paragraph of no more than 250 words via e-mail detailing your suitability for this opportunity.

All successful applicants will be invited to a briefing session followed by the chance to shadow one workshop with an experienced demonstrator for training purposes. This will be unpaid. Upon completion of training, support demonstrators will be paid £50 per workshop with the opportunity to take on the role of lead demonstrator at £75 per session.

For more details and to apply, please contact:  
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