

# Sparked

Mentoring to live and speak for  
Jesus in a science career



**Programme 2024-25**

# About Sparked

Sparked is the Science Network's mentoring programme, designed to support those making the transition from undergraduate study into a career in scientific research. On the Sparked programme, you'll be part of a group of like-minded students and graduates seeking to think, live and speak for Jesus amongst the scientific community. Drawing on the wisdom of mentors who've been living out their faith in the workplace for many years, we'll explore how the Bible's teaching transforms how we think about and do science. Whether you're applying for a PhD or just embarking on a career in industry, Sparked will equip you for the unique opportunities and challenges that come with being a Christian working in the sciences.

## Aims

The Sparked programme aims to help you:

- 1. Develop a biblical framework for engaging with your scientific field.**
- 2. Have confidence in sharing the goodness and relevance of the gospel with colleagues in the scientific community.**
- 3. Build a network of peers and mentors who will provide support and encouragement as you begin your career.**



## Who's it for?

Sparked is aimed at those making the transition from undergraduate study to a career in science. We welcome applications from final year undergraduates, Master's students, and those in their first year of work or postgraduate study.



## What does it cost?

The cost of participating in Sparked 2024-2025 is £125, which covers the cost of in-person conferences and study materials. Payment will be taken when places are allocated in September.

# How will I learn?

The Sparked programme runs over one academic year, from September to June. Across the year, you'll learn through a combination of in-person conferences and small-group online sessions. Each participant will be assigned to one of three mentor groups, each led by an experienced Christian working in science who will support your development through the year.

The Sparked mentoring programme has three key elements.

- **Teaching days and conferences** will provide you with foundational teaching on key areas of Christian engagement in the sciences.
- **Assignments** help you to process and embed what you've learned on teaching days, allowing you to apply concepts specifically to your own field of work or study.
- **Mentor group meetings** provide opportunities to discuss the material further in a small group, helping you develop skills in peer review and collaborative thinking.

In order to get the most out of the programme, we expect participants to take part in all meetings and assignments.

## Programme overview

Sept	Deadline for applications		
Oct	<b>Sparked @ Science Network Autumn Gathering</b>	London	Theology of science
Nov	<b>Autumn assignment</b>		Written reflection on how your faith personally impacts your engagement with science.
Dec	<b>Mentor group meeting</b>	Online	Feedback on autumn assignments
Jan	<b>Sparked teaching morning</b>	Online	Christian ethics in science
Feb	<b>Spring assignment</b>		Essay exploring a Christian response to an ethical issue in your discipline.
	<b>Mentor group meeting</b>	Online	Feedback on spring assignments
Mar	<b>Sparked teaching day</b>	Cambridge	Communicating the gospel to scientists
Apr	<b>Summer assignment</b>		Evangelistic talk explaining the gospel to a scientific audience
May	<b>Mentor group meeting</b>	Online	Workshopping summer assignments
Jun	<b>Sparked @ Enrich conference</b>	Location tbc	Preparing for the workplace

# Meet the mentors



Dr Zachary Ardem is a research fellow in evolutionary genetics at an institute in Cambridge, investigating the evolution of new genes in bacteria and viruses. His interests in science and faith topics include apologetics (particularly exploring how nature points to God) and the philosophy of science.



Yvonne Winterborn is a final year PhD student at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, studying the mechanisms and regulation of chromosome segregation during cell division using structural biology and biochemical techniques. Her interests include the biblical principles of ethical decision making in science and how the gospel shapes the everyday work life of a Christian working in academic science.

## How do I apply?

Scan the QR code below for the application form. Applications close Monday 16 September, after which places will be allocated.

Questions? Contact Emma Penwright on [epenwright@uccf.org.uk](mailto:epenwright@uccf.org.uk).



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