



In-School Visit FAQs

UAR Talks and Workshops

The [Understanding Animal Research](http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk) (UAR) nationwide schools program provides free in-school talks and workshops. Our speakers present the facts of why and how animals are used in UK research and encourage students to develop their own opinions on the ethics of animal research. Here are some Frequently Asked Questions about our schools program.

Is there any cost to the school?

None. All we ask is that you're willing to fill in a quick evaluation form after the visit.

Are you for or against animal research?

Understanding Animal Research supports the humane use of animals in medical science so long as it is essential for the research and there is no practical alternative. However, we understand that there are legitimate concerns, both ethical and scientific, to the use of research animals and all our speakers will be happy to listen to objections and to discuss opposing points of view.

How long is the session?

Sessions are designed to fit within a single or double lesson. A typical 50-60 minute talk includes a 30-45 minute interactive presentation and 10-15 minutes for questions.

Workshops are usually 90-120 minutes to allow time for additional hands-on activities and/or group work. All sessions are flexible and can be adapted to fit your timetable.

Who are your speakers?

Our speakers include UAR educators as well as dedicated research scientists and animal technologists working in animal research who volunteer their time to visit schools.



What are the sessions like?

Our speakers draw on their personal experience to discuss their work with animals, how their work is contributing to research, and how they feel about it. They use visual aids, props and class exercises to make the session more engaging. The talks should be quite informal with lots of opportunities for questions and discussion.

Workshops with our education team are longer and very interactive. Students will work in groups to think about the drug discovery process and how and why we use animals in it. If there is enough space there will be running about and we like to get them dressing up too.

To book your visit online www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/request-speaker/ or email ldanner@uar.org.uk

Understanding Animal Research is a not-for-profit organisation which explains the role of animals in scientific, medical and veterinary research. www.uar.org.uk



Are speakers DBS (previously CRB) checked?

A condition of having a speaker is that a teacher is present at all times, therefore a DBS check is not necessary for our volunteer speakers. Our full-time education staff maintain a current DBS check. Details are available upon request.

What facilities do speakers need?

Speakers will usually have a PowerPoint presentation which includes video clips, so will need standard IT equipment including a PC, projector, and ideally sound.

Additionally, workshops will need space for plenty of movement and group work. If necessary, this can be adapted to a standard classroom.

What age are the visits for?

Our sessions are available for students 11-18 years old, corresponding to key stages 3-5 and years 7-13 in England and Wales, P7-13 in Northern Ireland, and P7-S6 in Scotland. We are also able to deliver talks for FE and HE students as well as adult groups.



How big can the classes be?

Variable - we find that discussion is easier in standard class sizes of 30 or fewer. However, speakers do address whole year groups or assemblies and we will be happy to discuss this with you.

Workshops are designed for single or double class groups. For the larger groups there must be a large space available, for example a school hall.

Can we have multiple talks on one day?

Often, yes, but it depends on the availability of the speaker. They are taking time from their jobs to do the visit. If they have time to do more than one talk they will, but we cannot always guarantee it.

Will you be showing any gruesome images or videos?

No. There may be images and clips of animals undergoing simple procedures, for example taking blood from a rat's tail, but nothing that is upsetting. You can see some examples in our image and video libraries at www.uar.org.uk. We are happy to discuss the content of the presentation prior to the visit and to remove any imagery that may be problematic.

Will the speakers bring in any animals?

No. To ensure the welfare of lab animals their care, housing and use within research are closely monitored by the Home Office, and requires that they remain at their home institution.

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