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University of Birmingham appoints Alice Roberts as first Professor of Public Engagement in Science

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Alice Roberts at the Lapworth Museum of Geology

Clinical anatomist, author and broadcaster Alice Roberts has been appointed Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham.

Alice, who regularly appears as a science presenter on TV programmes including Coast, Time Team and Horizon, as well as The Incredible Human Journey, Don't Die Young and Origins of Us, joins the University on 1st February, 2012.

As well as carrying out a range of academic duties, such as lecturing undergraduate students and supervising PhD students, this new role will also involve promoting the University of Birmingham's academics and their research to the general public, and inspiring people about science.

Professor Alice Roberts said: "I am very excited about this appointment. This new professorship emphasises Birmingham's commitment to public engagement in science, to a dialogue between scientists and the wider public. Science is so important to our economy, to politics and education, but perhaps more than anything, I'm keen to promote science as a integral part of our culture."

Commenting on the appointment, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, Professor David Eastwood, said: "We are delighted to have appointed Alice Roberts who will be a fantastic ambassador for the University. She brings a strong academic record, a flair for teaching, and an excellent understanding of the requirements and importance of science communication. She will work across all of the University's disciplines in order to harness our collective strengths. She will also help us to further our work in promoting and encouraging public engagement with science."

Alice originally studied Anatomy before completing a Medical (surgery) degree and then a PhD in palaeopathology. Prior to her appointment at the University of Birmingham, she was Director of Anatomy at the NHS Severn Deanery School of Surgery. In 2011 she was elected an honorary fellow of the British Science Association.

Alice is currently filming two new series with the BBC.

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Notes to Editors

The University of Birmingham is a truly vibrant, global community and an internationally-renowned institution. Ranked amongst the world's top 100 institutions, its work brings people from across the world to Birmingham, including researchers and teachers and more than 4,000 international students from nearly 150 countries.

The University is home to nearly 30,000 students. With more than 7,500 postgraduate students from across the world, Birmingham is one of the most popular universities for postgraduate study in the UK.

The University plays an integral role in the economic, social and cultural growth of local and regional communities; working closely with businesses and organisations, employing approximately 6,000 staff and providing 10,000 graduates annually.

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