

“An exciting and new element to the work each time...”

## Bio-economy Career Profile

**Position:** Scientific Writer

**Name:** Annette Siebers

**Company:** Annette Siebers Scientific Communication

**Salary Range:** \$50,000 to \$75,000 per year



### What I do:

I work as a freelance scientific writer and use my science and communications background to produce written materials for biotechnology companies in and around Nova Scotia.

I work with biotechnology companies that are looking to launch their product to market, but require some assistance. I help them write the technical “white papers” geared toward their customers and provide them the scientific facts of the product. I also assist start-up companies with their corporate identity, developing logos and producing information sheets for potential customers and investors.

I work with a company in Germany to offer Internet training courses in medical technology. I write the training content and design the training modules for the interactive learning sessions.

### What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

I received my Ph.D. in Natural Sciences in Germany. My degree is in biology, however, my education also included courses in other scientific fields, such as physics, mathematics, and chemistry. A strong science background is a must for a scientific writer; you deal with many different technology projects and to write about the product properly, you need a good understanding of its qualities.

Above all, you require good technical and scientific writing skills. However, you must be able to write in such a way that allows people to understand the science. Editing and proofreading skills are important in developing training modules, as is the need for analytical thinking. I have greatly profited from being bilingual in English and German, as much of my work requires translation from one to the other.

It helps if you have a love for teaching and you can get others excited about what they’re doing. You should be able to pass on your passion and enthusiasm when developing teaching modules. It is also important that you are logical in your processes, so that others will understand you.

### What are the best parts of your job?

The best thing about my job is that I am able to work with many different companies with very different technologies. This brings an exciting and new element to the work each time. Research scientists tend to work in very specialized areas, but I enjoy being more of a generalist.

Most people are impressed with the exposure that I have to different technologies, and daily interaction with a variety of interesting people in different positions, from CEOs to scientists.