



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Internal Events & Opportunities

**Light of Understanding Awards** – If you or someone you know has been doing amazing public engagement please submit a nomination for the Light of Understanding Award for Excellence in Public Engagement. Any individual or team engaging the public with UoB research in innovative and creative ways is eligible and the winner(s) receives £2,000 to further their good practice. Find out more and make a nomination [here](#), deadline **29 February**.

**Breakfast Brainstorm** - Our next monthly drop-in session will take place on **26 February** from 9-11am. Open to all who want to learn more or get advice and support on public engagement. Find us in Muirhead Tower Starbucks, upper level seating – look out for the Breakfast Brainstorm banner! For more information visit our [website](#).

**PER Fund** - The Public Engagement Team's funding scheme is open year round to support great ideas with seed-corn funding of <£250. For larger amounts, <£2,000 deadlines are quarterly (28 Feb, 30 May, 31 Aug, 28 Nov). [Details, criteria and application form here](#).

**PER Community Profile** - If you're a keen engager we'd love to give you a Community Profile on our newly refreshed PER Team website to inspire others and showcase our brilliant engaged researchers. To be featured just [contact us](#).

**Discovery Society Speakers** - The Bewdley School and Sixth Form is launching a new venture, the Discovery Society, which will feature guest speakers giving scientific lectures to students and staff. For more information or to register your information in taking part please contact [Carl Stevenson](#) (GEES) or [Mr Hadley-Price](#) (Bewdley School).

**Newsletter** - Want PER Team updates in your inbox each month? Sign up to our [newsletter here](#).

### External Events & Opportunities

**Classroom Changemakers** – is a Nesta funded scheme that provides grants of up to £5,000 for projects in schools and led by teaching staff that develop great ideas to encourage creativity and problem-solving in maths and computer science. [Details and apply here](#). Deadline **24 February**.

**Demo Challenge** – Cheltenham Science Festival are on the hunt for new contestants in their Over-Ambitious Demo Challenge. They want to see entries that are fun, exciting and hold the audience in suspense and last no longer than 12 minutes (1<sup>st</sup> round) or 5 minutes (2<sup>nd</sup> round). Competition runs on 7 June. [Details and apply here](#). Deadline **24 February**.

**Big Biology Days** - Usually held in a local school during a weekend or school holiday, Big Biology Days transform spaces with festival stands of hands on activities, games, crafts, talks, and more to get people talking about science. Apply to hold your own and secure a grant of <£500. More [details and apply here](#). Deadline **28 February**.

**FameLab** – is an international science communication competition that sees scientists and engineers attempt to engage and entertain audiences on research subjects armed only with their wits and a prop or two. There are regional training sessions and heats across the UK (the closest is in Sheffield) before the national final in June at Cheltenham Science Festival. Or you can apply by video before **28 February**. [Info and application form here](#).

**Genetics Society Grants** – Available to Society members to cover costs for travel and materials for public engagement activities on genetics themes. There are two tiers to the scheme: the first for small activities <£1,000, the second for activities <£5,000. Application deadlines are **1 March** and 1 September and applications should be made well in advance of the intended activity. [Details and apply here](#).

**PER For Drama & Theatre ECRs** – [Different Stages: Exploring public engagement for Drama and Theatre early](#) career academics is a workshop for PGRs and ECRs taking place in Birmingham's BMI Institute on **3 March**, 10am-4:30pm. Themes will include interpretation of the canon and the role of the media in disseminating research. Sign up for your [FREE place here](#). Limited support for travel costs is also available where this is a barrier to attendance, email [Naomi Paxton](#) for more info. There will also be a showcase of projects 6:30-8pm, free evening tickets [available here](#).

**nQuire Workshop** – nQuire is a new platform for running online citizen science, crowdsourcing, and public engagement investigations. Learn how to use the platform for your field or research question at this free workshop at the Open University on **6 March**. Tickets are FREE and reasonable travel will be reimbursed. [Registration and details here](#).

**Einstein's Garden** – Green Man Festival's curious and wacky science engagement area, Einstein's Garden, is now open for applications for stalls and performances. They are especially interested in the "weird, wacky and wonderful"! Stalls/installation applications are [here](#); scroll down to 'Create'. Applications for Performances, Speakers, Walkabout, Bands, Workshops and anything else is [here](#). Deadline is **6 March**.

**NERC Schools Survey** – as part of their [Embedding Engagement](#) project, the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) are seeking to identify projects that do environmental science related outreach and engagement with UK school children. If this applies to you please complete [this survey](#) by **15 March**.

**RI Digital Media Internships** – the Royal Institution (RI) is looking for 3 PhD students to take on an a 12 week Digital Media internship based in Central London between April and December 2020. Students must be on Research Council PhDs that allow for a professional placement. Experiences will include managing digital channels and web content. [Details here](#), deadline **16 March**.

**Science Show Off** – is a series of science performance events that helped launch the careers of several stars of public engagement, including 2019 Christmas Lecturer, Hannah Fry. The scheme re-launches on 17 March at the Star of Kings in central London and is seeking science performances of all kinds (presentations, demos, comedy, music, dance, etc). Sign up for [a slot here](#).

**STFC Engagement Fellowships** – the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) is offering <£100,000 over 3 years to support researchers in an STFC-funded area of science and technology to deliver a prolonged, thematic programme of public engagement at an institution, covering multiple different events and activities. [Details and apply here](#), deadline **19 March**.

**STFC PE Fellowships** – The Science and Technologies Facilities Council public engagement leadership fellowships are now open for applications. The scheme provides fellowships worth up to £125,000 to support activity and buy out <40% of the Fellow's time for up to 36 months. They are looking for applicants who want to deliver novel or innovative engagement, especially with audiences who have low levels of existing science capital. See [here for details](#) and [here to apply](#). Deadline **19 March**.

**ATOM Science Festival** – family-friendly festival taking place in Abingdon, near Oxford 14-22 March is looking for researchers to take part in their Science Market (**14 March**) and family Science Fair (**22 March**) as well as volunteers to help with the smooth running of the main festival programme. [Details and application information here](#).

**Medical Humanities Awards** – These national awards recognise the contribution of arts and humanities to improving healthcare, health and wellbeing and are supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Wellcome Trust. There are 5 categories including Best Research and Best Community-Led Project. Winners each receive £5,000 to engage the public with their research. For [more information and to apply see here](#). Deadline **18 March**.

**British Ecological Society** - Up to £2,000 for members of the British Ecological Society to engage the public with the science of ecology. Deadline **20 March**. Details and apply [here](#).

**Rowntree Trust Grants** – the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust offers Rights and Justice Programme Grants that support long-term work to grow public support and empathy for the rights of racial and religious minorities via policy change and approaches to change the public debate. Grants available £100 - £100,000+. Deadline **23 March**. [All details here](#) (check eligibility and dates carefully).

**Royal Society Training** - [Public Engagement for Independent Researchers](#) is a one-day workshop on **23 March** at University of Birmingham for mid-career scientists with little or no experience of engaging public audiences with their research. It's designed to give you the confidence and skills required to get started and includes the opportunity to meet professionals who can help you implement your ideas. Places cost £150+VAT, though PER Team have a small number of fully-funded tickets. [Email us](#) to register your interest in receiving a free place.

**Online Bioscience Engagement Training** – The Biochemical Society is running an online training course called [Introduction to public engagement and science policy](#), starting on **24 February**. Course participants will explore how the molecular biosciences can contribute to UK policy, and share tools that can be used to engage the public effectively. The course is FREE for members or £50 for non-members.

**Geoscience Outreach Committee** – The European Geoscience Union's [Outreach Committee](#) promotes the Earth, planetary and space sciences and the activities of the EGU among scientists, the public, policymakers and all other interested individuals and organisations and is currently seeking <4 new members to further their work. For further information please contact [Mioara Manda](#) by **20 March**.

**Endocrinology Grants** – the Endocrinology Society awards grants <£1,000 to its members for public engagement activities including demos, classroom resources, videos/podcasts and digital learning materials to engage non-specialist audiences with hormones and the impact of endocrinology. Deadlines **25 March** and 23 September. [Details and apply here](#).

**History of Philosophy Grants** – the British Society for the History of Philosophy provides grants <£1,000 to support exhibitions or public events or digital content relating to history of philosophy. Deadline **30 March**. [Details and apply here](#).

**EU Impact Award** - The European Commission is launching the 2020 edition of Horizon Impact Award – a prize dedicated to EU-funded projects (H2020 and FP7) whose results have created societal impact across Europe and beyond. [See here](#) for all details, eligibility and how to apply. Winners are awarded €10,000 and invited to EU Research and Innovation days in Brussels. Deadline **2 April**.

**STEAM SciComm Summer School** – is a 9-day residential course at University of Malta running 18-26 July which provides training on a wide-range of science communication topics, including journalism, social media, event management, arts and performance. Attendees can be at any level from undergraduate to scicomm professionals. Earlybird course cost is €700, rising to €800 and grants are available until **6 April**. Find out [more and register here](#).

**NCCPE Engage Academy** – The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement's in-depth, year-long engagement training scheme is now open for bookings for 2020/21. The Academy costs £990 and covers all sessions, a 'Basecamp' support group, food during workshops, toolkits and access to a mentor. [Details and apply here](#). Deadline **9 April**.

**Global Climate Fiction Contest** – Everything Change is a short story competition looking for entries of 5,000 words or less that explore how we can learn to live within the world's planetary boundaries. First prize winner receives \$1,000, with 9 runners up receiving \$100 each. Entry is free. [Details and how to apply here](#). Deadline **15 April**.

**Biochemical Society Grants** – are now open for applications with a deadline of **16 April**. The scheme funds molecular bioscience public engagement and outreach activities with young people and the community, up to £1,000. Criteria [here](#), apply [here](#).

**Leicester Skeptics in the Pub** – are seeking FEMALE speakers for their upcoming meetings, which run on the third Tuesday of the Monday at Brewdog in Leicester. The next available date is **21 April**. It's a really friendly group keen to hear from people with brilliant ideas to challenge the status quo in the world we live in. They pay for speakers' travel, dinner and childcare if needed. [Contact PER Team](#) if interested.

**Science Communication Prize** – the Biochemical Society's scheme is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students and awards cash prizes to the best biochemistry-related written, audio or video content. Articles/ essays can be <1,500 words, audio/video content should be 2-5 minutes. Top prize is £300 plus mentoring. [Details and apply here](#). Deadline **28 April**.

**Bristol Science Film Festival** – Is now accepting short science-based fact or fiction films for their annual short science film competition. Winning films receive cash prizes and all shortlisted film makers are invited to a screening on 6

June as part of the festival. Details [here](#), deadline **1 May**. For tips on making a winning film see [here](#), or check out the 2019 shortlist [here](#).

**Being Human Festival** – has announced its 2020 theme will be ‘New Worlds’ on **12-22 November** and as usual will be a UK-wide festival of all things humanities related. Get thinking about your submission now or join us at [Breakfast Brainstorm](#) to discuss ideas.

**AHRC Funding** - Follow-on funding for impact and engagement: up to £30,000 available for AHRC-grant holders to explore innovative and creative engagements with new audiences which stimulate pathways to impact. Deadline **rolling**. Details and apply [here](#).

**New Scientist Live** - Returns to London on 15-18 October and they are looking for speakers and performers who will engage, inform, inspire and delight. Could that be you? Please get in touch at [nslspeakers@newscientist.com](mailto:nslspeakers@newscientist.com) to nominate speakers. For those interested in exhibiting please contact [jacqui.mccarron@newscientist.com](mailto:jacqui.mccarron@newscientist.com), though be aware that exhibition space and shells can be costly.

**Midland Institute Talks** – The [Birmingham and Midlands Institute](#) has started a programme of lunchtime lectures for the general public and looking for speakers. The talks run on Mondays, 1-2pm at the BMI, which is the city centre. Talks can be on any topic, but should be pitched to be interesting and insightful to a lay audience. [Let us know](#) if you'd be interested.

**NCCPE Guides** – The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement publishes a number of useful guides to help you plan your engagement ([PER Team does a couple too!](#)). They cover all aspects of planning, delivering an evaluating your PER project. [Find them here](#) (search ‘Guides’).

**Child Development Grants** – are available from the Waterloo Foundation to support the dissemination of knowledge and best practice to children and their carers, and to related professionals. Maximum award is £10,000. No deadline for submission, but end of February or mid-June 2020 preferred (to align with research funding dates). [Details here](#).

**Café Scientifique Birmingham** – is looking for speakers for their June to November meetings next year. Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at Purecraft Bar in the City Centre and the organisers are open to suggestions on themes, though showcasing particular links to Birmingham in the research would be welcomed. [Get in touch](#) if you'd be interested in taking part with brief idea of what the talk would be on.

**Animal Welfare Grants** – the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust supports organisations and individuals with projects that encourage initiatives designed to improve animal welfare, promote alternative methods to animal experimentation and their practical implementation or promote and encourage practical work in alleviating suffering and preventing cruelty to animals. [Details here](#), or [apply here](#).

**Community Engagement Online Course** - A new FREE online course for community engagement practitioners in low and middle-income countries is now live on The Global Health Network. [The Practice and Ethics of Participatory Visual Methods for Community Engagement in Public Health and Health Science](#) facilitating engagement processes with groups of community residents to generate creative visual materials and foster discussion and learning about health and health research.

**Science in the Wild** – Friends of Cotteridge Park are looking for researchers to run science sessions January - June 2020 in the park. Sessions take place on the last Sunday of each month, 2-4pm (ish), and attract dozens of local families. [Get in touch](#) if you'd like to run a session.

**Heritage Grants** – National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities to the national, regional and local heritage of the UK. Grants are worth £10,000 <£100,000 each for up to 5 years. Applications open **year-round**. [More details and apply here](#).

**Otto Harpner Fund** - Supports short visits to Austria by UK residents (or vice versa), to undertake specific cultural activities that help foster relationships between the two countries. Awards are generally in the region of £500 but may be worth up to £1,000. Apply **year-round**. [Details here](#).

**Plant Pathology Promotion fund** – From the British Society for Plant Pathology to support projects aiming to promote an understanding and awareness of plant pathology to a wider audience. Funding is worth up to £2,000. **No deadline**, applications considered quarterly. [Apply online here](#).

**Animal Behaviour Grants** – the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour offers Public Engagement Grants of <£2,000 to members and non-members to create activities aimed at young people and/or the general public, to communicate the science of animal behaviour. **Open year-round** with outcomes in June and November, [details here](#).

**British Pharmacological Society Engagement grants** – Grants up to £1,500 available to support outreach activities related to innovative pharmacology. Seeding grants of £250 available **all year round**. [Details here](#).

**Physiological Society Funding** – Grants of <£500 available to members and non-members **year-round** to increase understanding and awareness of physiology, engaging study at higher education and beyond, and to promote The Society, its vision and its activities. Collaborative / creative applications encouraged. [Details here](#).

**ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA)** – The Economic and Social Research Council IAA is now open for a new funding round. Details, deadlines, guidance and application forms [can be accessed here](#).

**Reaction Awards** - Grants up to £5,000 available to any researcher for public engagement activities provided the application includes research in an STFC-funded area of science or technology. [Full details here](#), applications **open year round**.

**NC3Rs Public Engagement Grants** -Up to £1,500 to support NC3Rs-funded researchers (past and present) to engage the public with approaches to replace, reduce and refine animal use in science. Deadline: quarterly, [apply here](#).

**Genetics Society Public Engagement Grants** - Grants of up to £500 are available to members of the Genetics Society to cover costs associated with travel and materials for public engagement activities relevant to Genetics. Deadline: rolling, [apply here](#).

**Public Engagement Jobs** - Career opportunities in Public Engagement and SciComm are often advertised through relevant JISC mailing lists. If you would like to hear about such vacancies please sign up to the [NCCPE JISCmail](#) and/or the [SciComm](#) list.

**BBSRC Professional Internships** – Available to BBSRC-funded PhD students to gain 3 months' work experience with the Council, including in Public Engagement. Applications are **open year round** and details on how to apply [can be found here](#).

For more information, to ask questions or to let us know about other opportunities, contact us via; our blog at <https://thinkpe.net> by email: [engage@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:engage@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or Twitter [@uobengage](#)

Many thanks from the UoB PER Team