



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Internal Events & Opportunities

UoB Enlightened – is a day of TED-style shorts talks on research topics from across the University to celebrate the opening of the new Teaching and Learning Building. Running from 1-7pm on **29 January**, topics will cover everything from leadership, the Cold War, abortion rights, Shakespeare, head injuries to computer science and much more. Open to the public, staff and students. [More details here](#).

Breakfast Brainstorm - Our next monthly drop-in session will take place on **29 January** 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](#).

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**.

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 fill out some [details here](#) and submit to [the PER Team here](#).

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

Blockchain Essays – Nesta is seeking essays that explore how the next decade of blockchain-enabled decentralisation could change the way we work together towards shared goals, how we structure organisations, and the societal impacts of these changes to inform policymakers and the public about the potential of these new technologies. To enter send a short pitch and CV to decentralisedfutureprize@nesta.org.uk by **26 January**. Ten finalists will then be selected to write full essays and 3 winners will be selected from those to win up to £3,000. [Details here](#).

Athena Prize – the Royal Society prize awarded to the UK team that has contributed most to the advancement of diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics within their communities. The prize is worth £5,000. Deadline **27 January**, [details and apply here](#).

Michael Faraday Prize – the Royal Society prize awarded to a scientist or engineer whose expertise in communicating scientific ideas in lay terms is exemplary. The prize is worth £2,500. Deadline **27 January**, [details and apply here](#).

Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Award – the Royal Society prize awarded to recognise contributions to the history of science, philosophy of science or social function of science. The prize is worth £2,000, deadline is **27 January**, [details and apply here](#).

Parkinson's UK grants – For patient and public involvement at any stage of the research cycle. Deadline **29 January** (next deadline May), no funding limit stated. Details and apply [here](#).

NERC PE Showcase – the Natural Environment Research Council is offering an opportunity for researchers to run public engagement activities at their annual showcase to be held at Techniquet Science Centre, Cardiff in July. Details [here](#), apply [here](#). Deadline **30 January**.

MRC Funding – Medical Research Council has funds of up to £1,500 available for engagement activities aligned with their Festival of Medical Science (18 May 30 June) or seed funding of up to £5,000 available to develop new engagement activities. Details and apply [here](#). Deadline for Festival activities is **30 January**.

Cultural Capacity Call – GBSLEP (Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership) is currently running a Cultural Capacity Development Funding Call to capacity build cultural organisations and consortia in the region. Grants of £2,000-£10,000 are available. Details and how to apply [here](#). Deadline **31 January**.

Youth Dialogue Grants - Support the active participation of young people in democratic life, and foster debate around topics relevant to the EU youth strategy. Grants are worth up to €50,000 over between three and 24 months. Deadline **5 February**. [Details here](#).

Noël Turner Science Festival – a 2-day celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), aiming to spark curiosity in STEM for primary and secondary students on the Isle of Wight on **6-7 February** is looking for contributors to run workshops for 30-100 students, lasting up to an hour. Practical elements and research related to engineering particularly welcome. More info or apply [by email](#).

Space Engagement Awards – 'Space for All' is a communities scheme from the UK Space Agency which grants up to £10,000 to encourage the use of space as an inspiring context for teaching and learning. Deadline **7 February**. Details and apply [here](#).

European Geosciences Union Grants - To recognise excellence science communications in the Earth, planetary and space science and to support the development of outreach projects that raise awareness of geoscience outside the scientific community. Three grants worth €1,500 each are available. Deadline **15 February**. [Details here](#).

British Science Festival – the next British Science Festival will take place with Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford and Essex on 8-12 September 2020 and applications are open for event ideas. To apply for event ideas the open call deadline is **17 February**. [Details and apply](#).

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](#).

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**.

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](#).

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](#).

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.

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](#).

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 to nominate speakers. For those interested in exhibiting please contact jacqui.mccarron@newscientist.com, though be aware that exhibition space and shells can be costly.

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 or Twitter [@uobengage](#)

Many thanks from the UoB PER Team