



COVID-19

We are mindful in this changing situation that public engagement might not be at the forefront of people's minds but want to continue to support those who might be keen to develop their engagement skills at this time. Therefore, we will be continuing to provide support to anyone who would like it via email, online meetings and our Slack channel, where we host monthly drop-ins. Please get in touch at engage@contacts.bham.ac.uk for more information.

Internal Events & Opportunities

Drop-In Engagement Support – Interested in finding out more about the PE team and our plans for 2021? Come along and join us for our January Breakfast Brainstorm via Zoom on **27 January at 9:30 am** so we can hear your thoughts and find out how we can support you over the coming year. Register [here](#). You can also drop a line to the team any time at engage@contacts.bham.ac.uk. We also regularly share opportunities through Twitter [@UoBengage](#).

Supporting Public Engagement - The Public Engagement (PE) team are creating new resources to support individuals and teams to engage with the public. To ensure the resources meet your needs we are looking for volunteers from the academic and professional services communities to take part in some consultation sessions. The short sessions will take place online throughout January and will last approximately 30 minutes. If you are interested in being involved please contact Lauren Deere, Research Engagement Officer before **29 January**, L.A.Deere@bham.ac.uk.

External Events & Opportunities

Online Engagement Training – Through this interactive workshop you'll discover how to get the best technical set up, understand how to get the most from your chosen platform and explore how to create professional online engagement events. The event takes place on **28 January** details [here](#).

The Physiological Society's Large Outreach Grant – is open to both non-members and members of the society the grant is for up to £20,000 to deliver outreach projects that increase understanding and awareness of physiology amongst the non-expert public or increase engagement with physiology research. The closing date for first stage applications is **31 January** and more details can be found [here](#).

Bennett Prospect Prize – is awarded annually to a short essay or film that explores creative solutions to a pressing public policy question with the 2020 question being "Is it possible to govern well in the age of populism?". Entrants must be within 5 years of PhD, entries must be no more than 2,500 words or 10 minutes long and the winner receives a £10,000 prize. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **31 January**.

Roman Empire Outreach Grants – the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies is offering funds <£10,000 to support research-related activities, including outreach, that relate to archaeology and art history of the Roman Empire and Roman Britain. The funder is particularly supportive of activities to engage local communities with excavation work. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **31 January**.

Attenborough Award – the Royal Society is seeking nominations for individuals who have done exceptional public engagement in any scientific discipline within the remit of the Society such as maths, engineering, agriculture, medicine, geography and experimental psychology. The award consists of a silver medal and a cash prize of £ 2,500. Details and apply or nominate [here](#), deadline **15 February**.

Faraday Prize - the Royal Society is seeking nominations for scientists and engineers whose expertise in communicating scientific ideas in lay terms is exemplary. The prize is worth £2,500. Details and apply or nominate [here](#), deadline **15 February**.

Schools Partnership Grants – The Royal Society (RS) is offering grants <£3,000 for schools and colleges to carry out investigative STEM research projects in their classrooms in partnership with a STEM professional. If you have a project idea and are keen to take part and don't have a partner school the RS may be able to help. Find out more and apply [here](#), deadline **26 February**.

Countering Disinformation Grants – the US Department of State is offering funding of <\$25,000 for projects aimed at increasing NATO's and allied countries' resilience to disinformation and misinformation campaigns. Projects can last up to 18 months. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **28 February**.

Sustainability Challenge – is a video competition for students (and teachers) of all ages to share their messages on biodiversity. Winning videos will be shown at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in May 2021 and receive a trophy and £500 prize. Videos must be 1 minute or less and can be from individuals or groups. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **28 February**.

NEW! NERC early career researcher training programme – this 5-week interactive learning experience running from 19 April – 17 May 2021 is open to early career researchers in environmental science who are interested in exploring the concept and practice of community centred approached to research. Applications open 9 February and deadline is 5pm, **8 March**. More details can be found [here](#).

Science Communicators Sought – the European Parliament is seeking to compile a list of experts in science communication to draft articles and other science communication outputs for the European Science Media Hub. Specialisms sought include: eco-mobility, sustainability, AI and emerging tech, health technologies, and science policy. Details [here](#), applications accepted to **March 2024**.

Bristol Science Film Festival – is now accepting short science 'fact or fiction' films for their annual competition. Winner and runners-up receive cash prizes and shortlisted films are screened as part of the festival. For information and to apply see [here](#) and [here](#) for guidance on how to make a winning film. Note that there is an application cost of £5 per entry. Deadline **1 May**.

External Events & Opportunities – Rolling/No Deadlines

NEW! Famelab UK - is a science communication competition designed to give scientists and engineers the skills, confidence and opportunities to share their enthusiasm for research with the public. FameLab UK is now open to registration from anyone over 21 currently working in STEM, and the winners will participate in the FameLab UK final at Cheltenham Science Festival 2021. Details [here](#).

Evaluation Course – Methods for Change have recently update their online Public Engagement Evaluation Course. Content is designed to be completed at your own pace, with each of the four modules offering about 10-12 hours of core learning tasks and activities and is run by expert evaluators. Cost is \$399 or \$149 for students. Find out more and sign up [here](#).

I'm A Scientist...Get Me Out of Here – the long-running online science communication competition has now gotten even bigger and will be running events throughout 2021 to help young people get vital access to learn from and be inspired by researchers and scientists. You can apply any time to take part and it only takes 2 minutes to [sign-up](#).

Biodiversity Content Sought – bioGraphic is a multimedia magazine featuring stories from around the globe about the most pressing threats to biodiversity and the most promising sustainability solutions and they are currently seeking ideas for submissions including articles, videos and photo essays. Find out more and submit [here](#).

Science Foundation Ireland Funding – the Discover Programme supports and develops STEM education and public engagement in the Republic of Ireland and provides funds to create or extend activities and existing ability as well as to explore novel means of engaging the public. Funding is worth up to €50,000 over one year and applications are accepted on a **rolling** basis. Details and apply [here](#).

Data News Stories – The Bureau of Investigative Journalism is seeking pitches for potential stories and investigations of how big data, algorithms, machine learning, AI and other technologies and systems are increasingly affecting people's lives. The Bureau will provide reporting and editing support and work will be published in high profile outlets. Details and apply [here](#).

Write for MIT – MIT Technology Review want to hear from people with interesting, provocative, and well argued opinions on technology and where it's taking us to write opinion pieces for publication. The call out also includes some great advice on how to write for the public. Details and apply [here](#).

VR, AR and MR Course – the University of Lancaster and Institute of Coding have launched an Introduction to Virtual, Augmented and Mixed Reality course on Future Learn. The course runs over two weeks and is free to enrol. Details and sign up [here](#).

Become a Better Presenter: Improve Your Public Speaking Skills – [This free course](#) run via FutureLearn by the Presenter Network is designed to help everyone find their own unique groove when it comes to presenting and public speaking - no matter what their level of experience is. The three week course is launched on 19th October.

Youth Futures Grants – The Youth Futures Foundation provides grants of <£6 million for projects that support young people who face barriers to finding and keeping decent jobs to secure high quality employment. Grants are available under two schemes, Development and Impact, with Development covering smaller projects (<£300,000). Further details and apply [here](#), **no deadline**.

Science Writing Resources – [Science Writing News](#) is a regularly updated set of newsletters featuring advice, guidance and opportunities for those interested in or working in science journalism. The latest round-up including advice from leading science writer, Ed Yong.

Community Health Grants – the Burdett Trust for Nursing offers <£10,000 through their Small Grants Scheme to empower health visitors to promote public health with vulnerable groups and communities. [Details and apply here](#).

Population Studies Grants – the British Society of Population Studies offers grants <£1,000 to members to organise meetings and events aimed raising public awareness of human population research from any perspective (e.g. biological, economic, historical, medical, social). Applications reviewed January, April and November. [Apply here](#).

Ocean Events Funds – the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is offers grants < £10,000 to support workshops and events (including public-facing) relating to ocean discovery (e.g. plate tectonics, Earth structure and composition, ancient oceans, climate change). Details and apply [here](#).

Severn Trent Community Fund – awards grants of up to £250,000 for projects that relate to water and generate tangible community benefits. There are three tiers of award: <£10,000, <£75,000 and <£250,000. Applications **assessed quarterly** and you must submit your application at least 5 months before your project is due to go ahead. Details and apply [here](#).

Infographics Guidance – with the move to increased online engagement many researchers are seeking guidance on how to make and use infographics. See Q&A and tips from science expert designers and artists [here](#).

Museum Fellowships – the Smithsonian Institutions (US) is seeking applications from researchers who want to carry out research of relevance to museums and education, and to improve knowledge exchange through research at their sites and with their collections. Fellowships include a \$3,500/month stipend and travel grant and can last up to 6 months. No deadline, further details and apply [here](#).

Ecological Society Training – the British Ecological Society has made a [suite of workshops available on their website](#) to members and non-members (membership is free for students). Topics include inclusivity in engagement, Zine production, and digital content creation. Most courses are free to members and some bursaries are available.

Science Communication and Public Engagement – is a free short course aimed at early career researchers available on Futurelearn. It requires 6 hours' study over three weeks. [Find out more and sign up here](#).

Talking Science YouTube Course – experienced science communicator and presenter, Greg Foot, has launched a free online training course on YouTube that covers core content on the importance of engagement, audience targeting, how to use storytelling, creating demos and how to use video. [Find it here](#).

NCAS Community of Practice - the National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS) has started an online community of practice to support public engagement with atmospheric science. [Find out more here](#) or [become a member here](#).

Omani Culture Grants – the [Anglo-Omani Society](#) invites grant applications to support events and meetings that enable British nationals to gain wider knowledge about Oman and its culture, people, history, geography, economy, literature, art, music, languages, beliefs and customs. No maximum award value is specified and there is no deadline – applications are assessed **quarterly**.

Community Buddy Scheme – is a new initiative from the British Science Association that seeks to connect researchers with their existing group of local [Community Leaders](#). Find out more and get involved [here](#).

Community Resilience Grants – the Heart of Engagement Community Foundation has grants available for those supporting communities through the coronavirus outbreak, including those carrying out some types of outreach. For more details see [here](#).

Science Journalism Resources - [Script](#) is a free training and networking resource for journalists, scientists and others to communicate science in an engaging and accurate way. Find **free** online courses [here](#) and practical guides [here](#).

ACE Emergency Funding Guides - Arts Council England has opened a new round of applications for emergency funding to support projects related to Covid-19/coronavirus, [details here](#). They have also released details on [access support](#) and [BSL guidance](#) to ensure these opportunities are accessible.

AHRC Funding - follow-on funding of £30,000 available for AHRC-grant holders to explore innovative and creative engagements with new audiences which stimulate pathways to impact. Details and apply [here](#).

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 2021 preferred (to align with research funding dates). [Details here](#).

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](#) helps community residents to generate creative visual materials and foster discussion and learning about health and health research.

Heritage Grants – the 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. Seed-corn 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](#).

Reaction Awards - <£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](#).

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.

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](#)