

Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund: Public Engagement with Research Fund



GUIDELINES

Introduction

1. This Fund is an internal grant scheme to support high quality public engagement with research activities that fall within Wellcome's areas of research interest. This includes: biomedical science, population health, humanities and social sciences. **You do not need to hold funding from Wellcome in order to apply.**
2. The deadline for applications is 12 noon, Monday 22nd May 2017; funding for this scheme must be spent by 30th June 2018.

Eligibility

3. The Principal Applicant must be a researcher employed by the University of Oxford with a contract in place until the anticipated end-date of the project. Co-applicants can include other researchers, research students, teaching staff, public engagement officers and research facilitators.
4. This fund is only able to support projects that fall within Wellcome's areas of research interest. This includes: biomedical science, population health, humanities and social sciences (see <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding>). You do not need to hold funding from Wellcome in order to apply.
5. Projects must identify the specific public audience(s) / participants that they wish to engage. Research Councils UK defines the 'public' as individuals (young people; adults or families), groups or communities who do not currently have a formal relationship with a Higher Education Institution (HEI) through teaching, research or knowledge transfer, but who may have a general or vested interests in these activities. Proposals without a specified purpose or target audience(s) / participants and those where the primary purpose is to increase student applications to the University of Oxford will not be considered.

Focus

6. Grants from this fund are typically expected to be around £2,000 – £5,000. This is a guide rather than a budgetary target.
7. The fund is design to facilitate the engagement of public audience(s) / participants with current research. It is not design to support general educational activities.
8. Potential Public Engagement with Research activities are many and varied and could include:
 - Developing/ piloting new projects
 - Improving existing activity
 - Collecting robust evidence of the value, outcomes or impact of existing activity

See <http://www.ox.ac.uk/research/public-engagement/engaged-research> for more

examples.

9. Projects must identify the key **Purpose** of their activity:
 - a. **To inform and inspire the public:** Researchers informing and inspiring public audiences about their research. Possible techniques include: participation in festivals; interactive talks and shows; films and animations.
 - b. **To consult and listen to public views:** To better inform researchers on the public's views and concerns about their research, and also an opportunity to hear fresh perspectives and insights. Possible techniques include: public debates; online consultations; panels and user-groups.
 - c. **To collaborate with the public:** Whereby researchers and the public work together on projects or help define future research direction, policy or implementation of research outcomes. Possible techniques include: crowd-sourcing; citizen science; co-production of knowledge.
10. The chosen format/ methodology must be appropriate to the purpose of the activity and target audience(s) / participants.
11. Proposals for projects that involve partnership working, for example between departments within one Division or from different Divisions, or with external partners, are particularly welcome.

Details

12. Enquiries are welcome at any time; contact details provided at the end of this document.
13. A University cost centre is needed to host an award (i.e. College based activities can occur, but funds must be managed through a Faculty/Dept/Unit, rather than directly through Colleges).

Reporting requirements

14. Summary details of the awards made will be published via internal and external communication channels.
15. Grant recipients will be required to provide a brief final project report.
16. Grant recipients may be asked to help share with other colleagues their experiences in enhancing Public Engagement with Research.

Match funding

17. Match-funding is not required but is strongly encouraged and will be taken into consideration in the assessment of proposals.

Application Process

18. Please seek endorsement of your Departmental Administrator (or equivalent approval authority) prior to submitting the application. Clarification of endorsement may be sought.
19. Email the completed application form to public.engagement@medsci.ox.ac.uk, with email subject line: "ISSF Public Engagement with Research Fund Application", copied to your Department/Unit's appropriate research application approval authority contact (e.g. Head of Department, Faculty Chair, or Senior Administrator).

Selection criteria

- Clear evidence that the purpose of the engagement and target audience(s) / participants have been carefully thought through and articulated, and that the chosen method is appropriate.
- How well the project relates to a specific research project or research area of the researcher(s) involved.
- The potential to benefit both the public and the researchers or their research.
- The justification for the costs and value for money.
- The plans for reflection and evaluation of the project.
- The project's legacy which could include one of the following:
 - to serve as an exemplar for other researchers exploring ways to engage the public;
 - the opportunities to build Public Engagement with Research capacity;
 - to pilot activities for which further funding will be sought (for example as part of Pathways to Impact section on Research Council Grants)
 - potential to contribute to impact case studies for University returns, such as the Research Excellence Framework (REF).
- Level of match funding (if any – see note above; **this is not a requirement**)

Contact:

If you would like to discuss your project ideas in more detail, please contact: **Naomi Gibson**, Public Engagement Co-ordinator, Medical Sciences Division; 01865 (2)89558; public.engagement@medsci.ox.ac.uk (Please note you do not need to be in the Medical Sciences Division in order to apply, but your research needs to fall within Wellcome areas of interest – see paragraph 1 for more details). Enquiries from those new to Public Engagement with Research are welcome.