

# Public Engagement Starter Fund 2022/2023

## Guidance for applicants

The Public Engagement team is delighted to announce the return of our funding scheme that supports innovative public engagement with research activities.

The starter fund is open to researchers and PhD students affiliated with the University of Cambridge and Colleges from the application deadline to delivery deadline of December 2023.

Grants of up to £2000 are available for public engagement activities that:

- reach a specific target community or stakeholder group relevant to applicant's research
- develop a partnership with a community of interest
- create an innovative activity for the Cambridge Festival.

The key principles of public engagement with research are that it:

- must be underpinned by contemporary research.
- involves elements of genuine interaction, e.g. through dialogue, participation, collaboration and co-production, and demonstrate mutual benefit to all involved. Benefits may include knowledge, skills, insight and new perspectives.
- engages people and/or organisations from beyond academia.

A wide variety of projects are eligible for this fund.

- Live events including festivals, discussions, talks, workshops, science cafes.
- Collaborative projects with defined stakeholders and communities as partners in research, including those that use new and innovative approaches to engage under-represented groups, a particular geographic area and/or commercialise research.
- Public involvement including with patient groups and through citizen science activity
- Digital engagement through social media, online discussion events, blogs, podcasts and videos.
- Exhibitions and installations within museums and galleries.
- Education programmes that connect pupils, teachers and/or education providers directly with research.
- Activity that acts as a pilot for a planned large-scale public engagement project within a grant application.

**Closing date: MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022 11:59PM**

## Advice

The Public Engagement Team is happy to discuss potential applications before submission.

### Online advice sessions run on the following dates:

**22 November 2022, 13:00-14:00**

**24 November 2022, 10:00-11:00**

**01 December 2022, 10:00-11:00**

Sign-up for a slot <https://www.training.cam.ac.uk/event/4548009>

Applications will be assessed by a judging panel with and applicants notified by end January 2023.

Applicants are encouraged to follow the University guidance on carbon offsetting and to consider the reduction of their carbon footprint wherever possible in their project plan.

We may share your application with internal staff from other departments (e.g. Impact facilitators, the REF or Cambridge Enterprise Team) if we feel you could benefit from additional support. Please let us know if you do not wish your application to be shared in this way.

## Eligibility

- Researchers and PhD students affiliated with the University of Cambridge and Colleges from the application deadline to delivery deadline of December 2023. Research students and PostDocs are asked to request permission from their supervisors before applying.
- Public engagement/outreach/communications/research impact professionals are not eligible for this grant scheme. This group of professionals are encouraged to discuss proposals with researchers and help them complete application forms.
- Previous recipients are eligible to apply for funding, but the assessment panel will look for significant development of the idea or activity within the new application.

## Conditions of funding

### 1. Training

All successful applicants will be required to attend public engagement evaluation training and advised on appropriate courses run as part of the Engaged Researcher training programme to develop the skills they need to successfully deliver their project.

### 2. Reporting

Interim report due six months after the award date.

Final report, including project evaluation, within twelve months of the award date.

### 3. Sharing best practice and learning through case studies

In order to share expertise and learning across the University, selected projects will be developed into public engagement case studies. Successful applicants will be asked to contribute to these by providing information, text, quotes and images.



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## Activities outside the remit of this scheme

- We are unable to fund catering or travel costs unless it is shown that these are integral to the proposed activity (with evidence of a sound methodology or critical thinking behind this request).
- It is important to note that the non-academic audience is the main focus of the activity to be funded by this small grants scheme. Therefore, activities associated with academic conferences or similar activities should clearly show how these will do one or more of the following:
  - attract an audience from non-academic backgrounds,
  - encourage two-way dialogue between academics and a non-academic audience
  - offer significant demonstrable value to the non-academic audience
- If the activity is associated with a fee-paying conference/event, the applicant should show clearly why the conference/event fees cannot cover this portion of activity.
- Funding cannot cover the cost for project staff who receive a full-time salary from their organisation or employer.
- Funding for general-purpose hardware, apparatus or equipment such as digital cameras, telescopes or computers cannot be covered unless it is shown to be integral to the project (and does not make up the majority of the project costs).