

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Public Engagement with Research 2017

Terms and conditions

The Public Engagement with Research Awards were established in 2016 to recognise and reward those who undertake excellent public engagement with research. A list of the winners for the inaugural awards can be found at: <https://www.cam.ac.uk/public-engagement/2016-winners>

The awards are currently supported by the University's [RCUK Catalyst Seed Fund](#).

Scope of the award:

For the purpose of the award, we have adapted the [National Coordinating Centre's](#) definition of public engagement to explicitly focus on public engagement with research.

"Public engagement with research describes the myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of research can be shared with members of the public. Public engagement with research is by definition a process of exchange, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating mutual benefit, changes and/or effects."

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

- **Must** be underpinned by contemporary research
- **Must** involve elements of genuine interaction, e.g. through dialogue, participation, collaboration, co-production, etc.
- **Must** engage people and/or organisations from beyond academia

A wide variety of projects and approaches are eligible for this award, **if they meet the above key principles and demonstrate excellence**. These include, but are not exclusive to:

- **Live events** e.g. festivals, discussions, talks, workshops, science cafes.
- **Collaborative projects** e.g. with publics/organisations as partners in research.
- **Public involvement** e.g. patient and public, citizen science.
- **Media** e.g. social media, discussions via blogs, broadcasting-led activities
- **Exhibitions and installations** e.g. museums and galleries.
- **Education programmes** that connect pupils, teachers and/or education providers directly with research.

If you are unsure about whether you meet the criteria to make an application, please contact Dr Rebecca Jones at publicengagement@admin.cam.ac.uk and ask for advice.

Judging criteria:

Applications will be reviewed by a judging panel including external experts in public engagement with research. The judges assessment of applications is considered to be final; however, applicants will be offered feedback on their applications.

We are looking to recognise achievements at every career stage, and activities will be judged accordingly. The panel will be looking for:

- A strong relationship between the high-quality engagement and research.
- A clearly justified set of relevant partners and/or publics.
- Evidence of the benefits, changes and/or effects of the engagement to the research, researcher and/or publics.
- The reach and significance of the activity undertaken.
- Timeliness of engagement in the research cycle.
- Demonstration of a reflective / evaluative approach by the researcher, noting how learning from the activity has been shared more widely.

Eligibility criteria:

1. The award is open to researchers, postgraduate students and staff at the University of Cambridge.
2. Previous applicants are eligible to reapply, with refocussed or revised applications. Previous winners are not eligible to apply.
3. The public engagement with research undertaken must have taken place within the last three years and/or be ongoing.
4. The research upon which the engagement is based must have taken place at the University of Cambridge, within the last ten years.
5. Applicants can apply as individuals or with co-applicants. Only one application is permitted per initiative. All co-applicants must meet the above criteria. *Additional internal and external partners should be included in the collaborators section.*

Application process:

1. Application forms must be completed and returned to the Dr Rebecca Jones at publicengagement@admin.cam.ac.uk by **5pm on Friday 21 April 2017**. Late applications will not be accepted.
2. We ask that all applicants discuss their nomination with the relevant Head of Department, Faculty or Institute, so that they are aware of their submission.
3. All applicants will be invited to attend the award ceremony and reception on **Thursday 13 July at 3pm at the Old Schools**. Please put the date in your diary now.
4. All applicants may be asked to contribute to University websites and other materials in respect of the public engagement with research activities.
5. Please note that candidates unsuccessful this year may be apply again in subsequent years.

Winning the award:

1. Winning applications receive a trophy and a personal cash prize of £1000.
2. The announcement of the winners will be made at an award ceremony and drinks reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor on Thursday 13 July 2017.
3. The winners may be expected to take part in any promotional materials, including short films and case studies, on receipt of their award.