# Public Engagement Small Grant Scheme

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| Summary |
| PhD students, research staff and academic staff are invited to apply for a small grant of up to £750 to deliver a public engagement activity. Awardees are expected to complete the delivery of the activity or programme within 12 months of the award, write a blog post about the outcomes of their activities and attend a follow up workshop to share experiences and learning. |

### Aims of the scheme

* *To support staff and PhD students to develop their ability to engage audiences outside King’s with research.*
* *To enable a wider community of people to interact with King’s research at all stages.*

Priority will be given to projects which facilitate two-way communication (dialogue): for example, activities which enable audiences to share their views on the future direction of research in a particular area. The primary audience(s) for activities should be non-specialists, e.g. families, school children, community groups.

### Applicants

Applications will be accepted from any King’s postgraduate research student or member of research staff. Any member of staff may be a co-applicant. Academic staff working in areas of research which fall within the remit of the Wellcome Trust ([www.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk)) are also eligible. If you have queries about whether your research falls within the remit of the Wellcome Trust, please contact [Stephen Roberts](mailto:stephen.roberts@kcl.ac.uk) to discuss your application. These grants are supported by the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF).

To be eligible, the lead applicant must be:

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| **Career stage** | PhD student or research staff | Academic staff |
| **Research area** | Any | Wellcome Trust remit only |

### Training

Applications submitted by PhD students or research staff who have attended [public engagement training workshops](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/doctoral-studies/doctoral-training/courses/face%20to%20face%20courses/communication-and-impact) (at King’s or elsewhere) will be given preference over those from PhD students or research staff who have not. [King’s Engaged Researcher Network (KERN)](https://kingsengagedresearchblog.wordpress.com/) also runs regular PE events and training. All applicants are encouraged to consider who else might support them and contribute expertise to the delivery of the project.

[Stephen Roberts](mailto:stephen.roberts@kcl.ac.uk) and [Amy Moore](mailto:amy.e.moore@kcl.ac.uk) are available to have informal discussions with potential applicants about their projects.

### Evaluation and dissemination of learning

Successful applicants are required to support the evaluation of the scheme and ensure dissemination of learning, both locally, and at the department/faculty level. This includes:

1. Completing a self-assessment questionnaire, both before and after the activity has taken place, to help us understand how the scheme helped you to develop your public engagement skills and expertise.
2. Writing a reflective blog post on what happened and what you learned, which will be posted on the [KERN blog pages](https://kingsengagedresearchblog.wordpress.com/engaged-research-at-kings/).
3. Submitting a report detailing actual activities and how your understanding of public engagement has developed as a result of the project. This will enable activities to be tracked and recorded, and to facilitate reporting to external funders. Awardees will be supported to publicise their activities and learning through relevant communications channels.

***Funding***

Grants of up to £750 will be awarded. A clear budget is required in the application, and funds can only be used for items that are required for the project.

Funds **can** be used for:

* Equipment
* Standard class travel
* Catering
* Resources
* Stationery

Funds **cannot** be used for:

* Salaries

Your application will be assessed on whether it provides value for money but also on its feasibility. You should include full costings for everything needed to deliver the project. If other sources of funding have been sought to cover some costs, please indicate this in your application. Please ensure you provide sufficient detail in the breakdown of your proposed costs.

### The Application Process

Applicants must complete a short application form, which should be submitted by email to [doctoraltraining@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:doctoraltraining@kcl.ac.uk) Applications can be submitted at any time, however, the small grants panel meets twice a year, in November/April.

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| **Round** | **Deadline** |
| 1 | 26 November 2019 |
| 2 | TBC |

The total fund for 2019/20 is £8000, so approximately 10 awards will be made in each round.

### Application Proposals

Projects must:

* Be delivered within the lifetime of the applicant’s contract or studentship at King’s and within 12 months of the award.
* Have clear aims and objectives.
* Have a clear budget.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the audience being targeted.
* Have a clear, feasible project plan.
* Detail the steps that will be taken to evaluate the success/impact of the activity.

### Proposal Assessment

The selection panel comprises members of the Centre for Doctoral Studies and public engagement experts:

* Stephen Roberts, Research Engagement Manager, Research Management & Innovation Directorate
* Dr Amy Moore, Head of Doctoral Student Development
* Alice Taylor-Gee, Public Engagement Manager, School of Biomedical Engineering & Imaging Sciences
* Dr Jamie Dorey, Public Engagement Manager

Results will be announced approximately three weeks after the closing date.

### Example projects

1. Attitudes survey: designing and conducting a survey of public attitudes to potential developments in a particular area of research.
2. School workshop: preparing and delivering a series of science club workshops at a secondary school.
3. Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition: developing exhibits/interactive elements for a stand at the Royal Society’s Summer Science Exhibition.

### Useful links

* King’s Engaged Researcher Network (KERN)

<https://kingsengagedresearchblog.wordpress.com/>

* National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement [www.publicengagement.ac.uk](http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk)
* Involve

[www.participationcompass.org](http://www.participationcompass.org)

* British Science Association

[www.britishscienceassociation.org](http://www.britishscienceassociation.org)