

## Public Engagement Grants – guidance

The Physiological Society's charitable objectives begin, "to promote, for the benefit of the public, the advancement of physiology." It is important that this public, whom we are benefitting, are aware of how we do this. We also need to know from the public how they might indeed benefit from advances in the science of physiology. As such, The Society is committed to engaging with public audiences.

Through the programme of public engagement and outreach activities we run and support, we aim to foster communities of public audiences that have a clear understanding of physiology and related science, and engage with them in a dialogue about this. We want to raise the profile of The Society and of physiology, making it relevant and important to the public. Engaging with younger audiences will, we hope, inspire another generation to continue the advancement of physiological science.

We will consider applications for Public Engagement Grants from both Members and non-members. Members applying for a grant should, where possible, develop their project with support from a group or individual who is employed in public engagement or communication of science. Non-members applying should work with Members of The Society to develop their project, and we can help make connections in this respect. We want to support only the best, "gold standard" public engagement projects and to enable our Members to part in these. We believe collaboration between the science communication community and our Members is key to this.

The collaborative aspect of Public Engagement grants is different from our Outreach grants, and also in that they may be longer term projects with a wider geographical reach. Outreach grants are often one-off activities, whereas Public Engagement grants might support a programme of activity.

When considering applications, the Education and Outreach Committee will be looking for evidence that the applicant has fully considered the project's audience, and what their needs and wants are. Who, exactly, are your audience? Why will they want to be involved? We will also be looking for a commitment to thorough evaluation of how the project has achieved its aims, and its outcomes.

Well-written applications stand out. Be clear and concise and avoid jargon. Tell us what you want to achieve and why, and explain what relevant experience you have. Think about project planning and costs carefully. Make sure you have considered how much time, money and what skills you will need to run your project. Value for money is important but we will not just consider costs against number of people reached – we will be looking for quality, meaningful engagement that benefits both the audience and the people involved in the project, especially our Members. An excellent project would leave a lasting legacy on The Physiological Society and a lasting impact on its audience.

Our Outreach Manager will gladly provide support and advice for you to develop your application, and will continue to support your project if funded. Please contact [outreach@physoc.org](mailto:outreach@physoc.org) with any questions.

Louise Robson, Chair of The Physiological Society Education and Outreach Committee

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