



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**



# Leicester-Wellcome ISSF Public Engagement Scheme

## FAQs for Seed Awards 2018

*Who can apply to the scheme for seed awards?*

The ISSF Public Engagement Scheme is open to applications with a member of research staff or a PhD student as the lead applicant.

We strongly encourage the lead applicant to consider co-applicants that include a range of people, from both inside and outside of the University/academia, who can offer expertise that is relevant to the success of the project. These can include community representatives, artists, healthcare professionals, and any other professional/community expertise that is relevant to support engagement with an identified target audience.

*What is public engagement?*

Public engagement with research is the focus of this scheme, which is distinct but related to community engagement in the context of HEIs. We are interested in supporting any event or activity that engages the users of research (the public) with the researchers themselves, ideally in collaboration with people who are not researchers/academics.

Although engagement can be useful at any point in a research process, we are keen to see applications that provide an opportunity help scope out research questions

*What does not count as public engagement for this scheme?*

Activities that have a primary focus of engaging with:

- current staff and students
- future staff and students
- alumni and potential donors
- Media (local, national or social)

Activities that have a primary focus of:

- Purely one-way science/research communication
- Engagement with peers in academia/research

*Can I ask for funds retrospectively?*

No, we will not fund applications that ask for reimbursement for activities that have already occurred.

*Can I use the scheme to support PPI or other research-required engagement activities?*

No, this scheme is to fund engagement activities that add extra value to research, not information that is used for research purposes directly.

*What should the purpose of the project be?*

The purpose of the activity should be to create opportunities for sharing insights, perspectives, experiences and/or test assumptions in such a way that provides a valuable layer of contextual information that can inform a research process. This should be an open dialogue between researchers, publics and partners, generating a mutually beneficial interaction which creates a legacy that outlives the life span of the funded project.

We would like all applicants to apply for further funding, such as research or public engagement funding, which continues to build upon valuable partnerships that can co-create research questions.

*Who are 'the public'?*

For the purposes of this scheme, the Wellcome Trust define 'public' as anyone from outside of academia, and are identified as 'research users' rather than researchers/academics themselves. It does not need to be the broadest sense of the general public, if anything we would encourage more specific targeting for this scheme.

For example, a researcher who has identified their target audience/research users as people from a particular industry or healthcare professionals are eligible for funding from this scheme. However, this activity must be above and beyond what is required for their core research project and clearly demonstrate how this interaction will improve the application of their research by those people.

*How much can I apply for?*

You can apply at any time for up to £500 to test out an idea or run some pilot studies. We have set deadlines for £500 - £3000 throughout the year. Please check the scheme webpage for the next deadline.

*How long do I have to spend the funds if awarded?*

We currently have no cut-off date for awarded funds, however, we do not expect to fund projects that extend past one year.

*How long will it take to receive a response after submitting an application?*

For applications up to £500, we will aim to respond within 2 weeks. For applications up to £3000, we aim to respond within 6 weeks.

*How do I find out more about the scheme?*

If you have a question about the scheme that is not covered here, please contact Dr Marie Nugent, Public Engagement Manager ([mn218@le.ac.uk](mailto:mn218@le.ac.uk))