

## Who's who in science public engagement?

Organisation	Description
AHRC	<p>The Arts and Humanities Research Council supports research within subject areas ranging from traditional humanities subjects, such as history, modern languages and English literature, to the creative and performing arts. AHRC supports public engagement activities via the strategic partnership between the UK research councils, RCUK.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ahrc.ac.uk">http://www.ahrc.ac.uk</a></p>
Association for Science and Discovery Centres	<p>The UK's Association for Science and Discovery Centres represents over 70 science and discovery centres, museums and affiliated science learning organisations throughout the UK. The Association encourages excellence and innovation in informal science learning by serving and linking our member centres, and advancing their common goal of inspiring, involving and engaging people of all ages and backgrounds with science.</p> <p><a href="http://sciencecentres.org.uk">http://sciencecentres.org.uk</a></p>
Association for Science Education	<p>The Association for Science Education (ASE) is the professional association for science teachers. It was formed in 1963 by the merger of the Science Master's Association and the Association of Women Science Teachers. The ASE runs several conferences, including an annual conference each January that is very widely attended by people working in science education.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ase.org.uk">http://www.ase.org.uk</a></p>
British Science Association	<p>The British Science Association exists to create a positive social climate in which science, and the organisations dependent on it, advances with public consent and with the involvement and active support of non-scientists. Established in 1831, the British Science Association organises major initiatives across the UK, including the annual British Science Festival, National Science and Engineering Week, the Science in Society programme, programmes of regional and local events, and an extensive programme for young people in schools and colleges. Schemes particularly for scientists include the Media Fellowships, which place scientists alongside a print, internet or broadcast journalist for a 3 to 8 week placement. Additionally, the British Science Association runs <i>perspectives</i>, a poster competition that encourages early-career researchers to explore the social and ethical aspects of their research.</p> <p><a href="http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org">http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org</a></p>
BBSRC	<p>The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is the UK's principal funder of basic and strategic biological research. To deliver its mission, BBSRC supports research and research training in universities and research centres throughout the UK, including BBSRC -sponsored institutes; and promotes knowledge transfer from research to applications in business, industry and policy, and public engagement in the biosciences.</p> <p>BBSRC's Public Engagement Awards offer funds of up to £5000 to support BBSRC-sponsored researchers, BBSRC-sponsored institutes and BBSRC local coordinators to undertake public engagement activities. The application form including eligibility guidelines and rules is available to download. In addition, the website includes a full list of recently funded projects.</p> <p>BBSRC also supports public engagement activities via the strategic partnership between the UK research councils, RCUK.</p> <p><a href="http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk">http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk</a></p>

Beacons for Public Engagement	<p>Launched in January 2008, the Beacons for Public Engagement are university-based collaborative centres to help support, recognise, reward and build capacity for public engagement work.</p> <p>This £8 million initiative created by the Research Councils and the UK funding councils, in association with the Wellcome Trust, seeks to address the recognised need for culture change within institutions in order to support public engagement across all subject areas and the full range of activity by HEIs.</p> <p>As well as working directly within the institutions involved in the Beacons partnerships, each Beacon will be a point of contact for others interested in taking their work to diverse audiences. Six groups have been awarded Beacon status, based around Cardiff, Edinburgh, Manchester, London, Norwich and Newcastle. Alongside the Beacons, the National Coordinating Centre (a collaboration between Bristol University and UWE, alongside other partners) is the central resource to benefit the wider community.</p> <p><a href="http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/sis/beacons.htm">http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/sis/beacons.htm</a></p>
British Council	<p>The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. It is incorporated by royal charter. The British Council is registered as a charity and operates as an executive non-departmental public body. Its purpose is to build mutually beneficial relationships between people in the UK and other countries and to increase appreciation of the UK's creative ideas and achievements.</p> <p>Some examples of the British Council-funded public engagement activities include the ZeroCarbonCity campaign, Café Scientifique, the Dana Centre, National Science and Engineering Week, the Science and Engineering Ambassadors (SEAs) programme and Sense about Science. They have also been involved in several ways in which public dialogue informs decision-making in new areas of science and technology, including Citizens' Juries, Democs (deliberative meeting of citizens), sciencehorizons, Science shops, the Royal Society Dialogue programme, and the Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences Research Centre (PEALS).</p> <p><a href="http://www.britishcouncil.org">http://www.britishcouncil.org</a></p>
Cafés Scientifique	<p>Café Scientifique is a forum for the discussion of important and interesting scientific issues. They are informal and accessible - much more so than a public lecture. Meetings take place in cafes, bars, restaurants and even theatres, but always outside a traditional academic context. Café Scientifique is a forum for debating science issues rather than a shop window for science, and the cafes are intended to promote public engagement with science and to make science accountable.</p> <p>The first Café Scientifique was held in Leeds in 1998. From there, cafes sprang up in Newcastle, Nottingham and Oxford and then gradually spread throughout the UK. Currently, over 30 cafes meet regularly to hear scientists or writers on science talk about their work and discuss it with diverse audiences.</p> <p><a href="http://cafescientifique.org">http://cafescientifique.org</a></p>
Connecting science	<p>The goal of connecting science is to connect scientists with each other and with organisations that can help and support them in their outreach activities. They envisage a place where researchers can find help to get started, meet like-minded colleagues, exchange ideas and experiences, and find out what resources and public engagement activities are out there, both in the UK and internationally. It's also a place where they hope organisations such as the British Science Association can reach and interact with individual scientists and other organisations.</p> <p><a href="http://www.connectingscience.org">http://www.connectingscience.org</a></p>

Engineering UK	<p>EngineeringUK, previously known as the Engineering and Technology Board (ETB) is a charity whose purpose is to promote the vital contribution that engineers, and engineering and technology, make to our society. They also aim to inspire people at all levels to pursue careers in engineering and technology.</p> <p>They are currently focusing on three core programmes, The Big Bang, Tomorrow's Engineers and the Communications Hub.</p> <p><a href="http://www.engineeringuk.com">http://www.engineeringuk.com</a></p>
EPSRC	<p>The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is the main UK government agency for funding research and training in engineering and the physical sciences, investing around £740 million a year in a broad range of subjects. EPSRC aims to meet the needs of industry and society by working in partnership with universities to invest in people and scientific discovery and innovation. EPSRC's work is complementary to other research investors including other research councils, government agencies, industry and the European Union. EPSRC encourages its researchers to take part in public engagement, particularly through its Partnerships for Public Engagement award scheme and the Senior Media Fellowships. EPSRC also supports public engagement activities via the strategic partnership between the UK research councils, RCUK.</p> <p>The EPSRC Societal Issues Panel aims to help EPSRC take account of public thinking when deciding how to invest public funds in research. It also strives to promote a healthier relationship between science and society in general. The Societal Issues Panel is one of three panels that advise the EPSRC Council.</p> <p><a href="http://www.epsrc.ac.uk">http://www.epsrc.ac.uk</a></p>
ESRC	<p>The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is the UK's leading research funding and training agency addressing economic and social concerns. It primarily funds research on issues of importance to business, the public sector and government.</p> <p>ESRC organises a yearly festival of social science that runs alongside National Science and Engineering Week. ESRC also supports public engagement activities via the strategic partnership between the UK research councils, RCUK.</p> <p><a href="http://www.esrc.ac.uk">http://www.esrc.ac.uk</a></p>
FameLab	<p>NESTA FameLab is an exciting national competition to find talented scientists and engineers who can share their enthusiasm and knowledge with the public in an interesting and entertaining way. The aim of the competition is to encourage scientists and engineers to inspire and excite the public imagination with a vision of science in the 21st century. FameLab searches for the new voices of UK science and engineering who will be able to develop their ideas and presentation skills for an adult audience.</p> <p><a href="http://www.famelab.org">http://www.famelab.org</a></p>
HEFCE	<p>The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) was set up by the government in 1992 as a non-departmental public body. HEFCE distributes public money for teaching and research to universities and colleges. In doing so, it aims to promote high quality education and research, within a financially healthy sector. The Council also plays a key role in ensuring accountability and promoting good practice in higher education.</p> <p>HEFCE supports widening participation and public engagement, and has been involved in setting up the Beacons for Public Engagement alongside Research Councils UK and the Wellcome Trust.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hefce.ac.uk">http://www.hefce.ac.uk</a></p>

MRC	<p>The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the seven UK research councils. It supports research across the entire spectrum of medical sciences, in universities and hospitals, in its own institutes and units in the UK and overseas.</p> <p>The MRC provides funding for public engagement activities via RCUK, the strategic partnership between the UK research councils. Advice for researchers aiming to get involved in public engagement activities is available from the MRC website.</p> <p><a href="http://www.mrc.ac.uk">http://www.mrc.ac.uk</a></p>
NERC	<p>The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is one of the seven UK research councils. It delivers independent research, surveys, training and knowledge transfer in the environmental sciences, with the aim of advancing knowledge of planet Earth as a complex, interacting system.</p> <p>As well as supporting public engagement activities via the strategic partnership between the UK research councils, RCUK, NERC offers advice on communicating research to a non-specialist audience in a document available on its website (<a href="http://www.nerc.ac.uk/publications/guidance/documents/comyourideas.pdf">http://www.nerc.ac.uk/publications/guidance/documents/comyourideas.pdf</a>).</p> <p><a href="http://www.nerc.ac.uk">http://www.nerc.ac.uk</a></p>
NESTA innovation	<p>The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) is the largest single endowment devoted exclusively to supporting talent, innovation and creativity in the UK. Its mission is to transform the UK's capacity for innovation. NESTA invests in companies at an early stage, informs innovation policy and encourages a culture that helps innovation to flourish.</p> <p>NESTA funds or organises several public engagement schemes, including the Planet sci-cast competition, Crucible training, FameLab, Challenge Programme, Policy breakfast and other events.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nesta.org.uk">http://www.nesta.org.uk</a></p>
National Science and Engineering Week	<p>National Science and Engineering Week (NSEW) is held every March. It gives people of all ages the opportunity to take part in a variety of science, engineering and technology activities. It is coordinated by the British Science Association, funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and works in partnership with EngineeringUK. During the Week, thousands of events run throughout the country in schools, museums, shopping centres and even pubs. Events within National Science and Engineering Week are organised and run on a voluntary basis by anyone who wishes to be involved.</p> <p><a href="http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/nsew">http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/nsew</a></p>
Research Councils UK	<p>Research Councils UK (RCUK) is a strategic partnership between the seven UK Research Councils (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC and STFC). RCUK was established in 2002 to enable the Councils to work together more effectively to enhance the overall impact and effectiveness of their research, training and innovation activities. This in turn contributes to the delivery of the government's objectives for science and innovation.</p> <p>RCUK-funded schemes include FameLab, National Science &amp; Engineering Week Awards and the British Science Association <i>perspectives</i> scheme. Training in public engagement supported by RCUK includes Researchers in Residence and Meet the Scientist. Media and communication skills training is also available from RCUK.</p> <p><a href="http://www.rcuk.ac.uk">http://www.rcuk.ac.uk</a></p>

Royal Society	<p>The Royal Society, the national academy of science of the UK and the Commonwealth, is at the cutting edge of scientific progress. It supports many top young scientists, engineers and technologists. Amongst other things, it aims to influence science policy and debate scientific issues with the public. It is an independent, charitable body which derives its authoritative status from its 1400 fellows and foreign members.</p> <p>The Royal Society offer media and communications training, education Partnership Grants, and a number of research funding opportunities. The Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition occurs each summer with a deadline for proposals in early November.</p> <p>The Royal Society runs a number of discussion meetings and public lectures. The Society has conducted a study, issued a science brief, or held a meeting, on a vast range of topical scientific issues.</p> <p><a href="http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk">http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk</a></p>
Science Council	<p>The Science Council is a membership organisation representing the learned societies and professional institutions across the breadth of science in the UK. The purpose of the organisation is to provide a collective voice for science and scientists and to maintain standards across all the scientific disciplines.</p> <p>The Science Council promotes the profession of scientist through the Chartered Scientist designation and the development of codes of practice; it promotes awareness of the contribution of professional scientists to science and society and advances science education and increased understanding of the benefits of science.</p> <p>The Science Council provides a forum for discussion and exchange of views and works to foster collaboration between member organisations and the wider science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medical communities to enable inter-disciplinary contributions to science policy and the application of science</p> <p><a href="http://www.sciencecouncil.co.uk">http://www.sciencecouncil.co.uk</a></p>
Science festivals	<p>There are many well-established science festivals organised in the UK. Science festivals offer the public the opportunity to engage with science and scientists face-to-face in a relaxed environment. With activities including practical experiments and nature walks, expert talks and interactive exhibits, science festivals act as a platform for communicating science at all levels to people of all ages.</p> <p>Science festivals include the British Science Festival (formerly BA Festival of Science), Brighton Science Festival, Cambridge Science Festival, Cheltenham Festival of Science, Cheshire and Warrington Science Festival, Edinburgh International Science Festival, Milton Keynes Science Festival, Newcastle Science Festival, Orkney International Science Festival, Oxfordshire Science Festival, Shrewsbury Darwin Festival, Wrexham Science Festival, and the York Festival of Science and Technology.</p>
Science Media Centre	<p>The Science Media Centre is first and foremost a press office for science when science hits the headlines. The Science Media Centre runs workshops, meetings and discussions. It has run a series of informal brainstorming sessions about the media coverage of scientific issues that are hitting the headlines. The Centre has held sessions on human genetics, MMR, nanotechnology and GM crops.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sciencemediacentre.org">http://www.sciencemediacentre.org</a></p>

Science shops	<p>The science-shop model was initiated in the Netherlands in the 1970s. During the 1980s, the model spread throughout Europe, but without much coordination. The central idea behind the science shops involves a working relationship between knowledge-producing institutions like universities and citizen groups that need answers to relevant questions. They are small entities that carry out scientific research in a wide range of disciplines, usually free of charge and on behalf of citizens and local civil society. Science Shops are often, but not always, linked to universities, where students conduct the research as part of their curriculum.</p> <p><a href="http://www.scienceshops.org">http://www.scienceshops.org</a></p>
Sciencewise	<p>Sciencewise was launched by Lord Sainsbury in 2004 and funded by the then Office of Science &amp; Innovation at the Department of Trade &amp; Industry. Sciencewise is a programme funded by the government to help policy-makers find out people's views on emerging areas of science &amp; technology, allowing these views to be taken into account in national policy decisions. The programme stems from the government's aim to build a society in which the public, the science community and policy-makers feel comfortable in handling issues raised by science &amp; technology, and feel a joint sense of purpose in ensuring that the full benefits of science and technology are realised for society.</p> <p>Sciencewise works alongside the Horizon Scanning Centre and the Foresight programme, and works with the cross-Government 'Together We Can' initiative. Sciencewise projects include: Trustguide, Nanodialogues and Nanotechnology Engagement Group (NEG), Drugsfutures, sciencehorizons, forensic use of DNA, RCUK stem cells, hybrid and chimera embryo research and the community x-change.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sciencewise.org.uk">http://www.sciencewise.org.uk</a></p>
STEMNET	<p>STEMNET creates opportunities to inspire young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This enables young people to develop their creativity, problem-solving and employability skills, widens their choices and supports the UK's future competitiveness.</p> <p>The STEM Ambassadors programme brings illumination to the classroom and switches on the minds of young people to the potential of STEM subjects and careers. STEM Ambassadors are everyday people from real working backgrounds who volunteer their time for free to act as inspiring role models to young people. They provide a refreshing change to regular lessons and activities and open the door to a whole new world for young people, helping them to see STEM subjects and careers with a fresh perspective and engage their interest and imagination in new ways.</p> <p><a href="http://www.stemnet.org.uk">http://www.stemnet.org.uk</a></p>
STFC	<p>The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) was formed in 2007 from the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CCLRC) and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC). STFC funds researchers in universities directly through grants particularly in astronomy, particle physics, space science and nuclear physics.</p> <p>As well as contributing to public engagement activities provided by RCUK, the strategic partnership between the UK research councils, STFC supports public engagement activities through its small and large awards schemes. The Small Awards provide funds in the range of £500 to £10,000; the Large Awards provide up to £100,000.</p> <p><a href="http://www.scitech.ac.uk">http://www.scitech.ac.uk</a></p>

<p>The EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7)</p>	<p>The EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development is the European Union's main instrument for supporting and encouraging collaborative, trans-national research, development and innovation in science, engineering and technology. It has three overall aims: 1) to strengthen the EU's science and technology base; 2) to improve the EU's competitiveness; 3) to support EU policy development.</p> <p>The programme is open to EU public and private bodies of all sizes and encourages participation of non-EU countries. Participation is on an internationally collaborative basis and must involve European partners. There are no national quotas as the programme operates on a competitive basis with proposals being evaluated by panels of independent experts against set criteria.</p> <p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm">http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm</a></p>
<p>Wellcome Trust</p>	<p>The Wellcome Trust is an independent charity that funds research to improve human and animal health. Established in 1936 and with an endowment of around £13 billion, it is the UK's largest non-governmental source of funds for biomedical research. As a privately endowed charity, The Wellcome Trust is independent from governments, from industry and from donors.</p> <p>The Wellcome Trust runs courses, conferences, seminars and workshops for the benefit of professional groups, and it runs Wellcome Collection tours as well as events and exhibitions. The Trust also supports many schemes including the Researchers in Residence scheme and Junior Cafe Scientifique.</p> <p>The Wellcome Trust also offers Engaging Science, a grants programme offering £3 million per year to support projects that investigate biomedical science and its social contexts. Funding is available for activities and projects that consider the social, cultural, ethical and historical issues related to biomedical science.</p> <p><a href="http://www.wellcome.ac.uk">http://www.wellcome.ac.uk</a></p>