

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH POSITIONAL PAPER: EXTERNAL-FACING VERSION

Public Engagement with Research is a guiding principle of our research culture at the University of Exeter.

Our researchers actively seek new ways to engage with diverse public communities in order to nurture, support and develop meaningful partnerships to tackle some of the fundamental issues facing humankind.

Engaging with a wide range of publics is necessary to support the quality of our research and ensure that our research can make a difference locally, nationally and globally. The University of Exeter is committed to engaging diverse publics as a core characteristic of its role as a civic university and anchor institution.

The Vision

Our vision is to foster a culture that generates, supports and benefits from high quality engagement among the university, its staff, its research, and its varied and diverse publics. We want to be recognised externally as a university that enables and delivers excellent Public Engagement with Research.

We believe that Public Engagement with Research is at the heart of our research culture. We are committed to ensuring that Public Engagement with Research is embedded within our practices as a University in our research and other areas of work. We will share our successes and reflect on our progress, making sure that we continually learn and strive for improvement.

Our principles and objectives

We have created following principles, which will inform and guide our Public Engagement with Research practice:

- Public Engagement with Research matters; it is integral to our research culture.
- Public Engagement with Research is about meaningful and purposeful engagement.
- Public Engagement with Research should deliver benefits for all involved.
- Public Engagement with Research will be appropriately supported and resourced.
- We celebrate and reward high quality Public Engagement with Research activity.
- Public Engagement with Research activity often requires imagination, experimentation and new ways of working to be effective.
- In order to flourish, Public Engagement with Research requires continuous learning and knowledge sharing about what works well and what the challenges are

Seven objectives will help guide our strategic activities as a university. These are to:

- i. Increase awareness of, and clarity about, Public Engagement with Research, its benefits, and the university's commitment to it across the entire institution and in its strategies.

- ii. Add to the diversity of Public Engagement with Research activity at the university.
- iii. Equip staff with the knowledge, skills, tools and resources to be able to conduct high quality Public Engagement with Research activities.
- iv. Encourage greater dialogue and exchange among university staff and researchers from the most inspiring and successful activities in Public Engagement with Research.
- v. Identify and co-ordinate opportunities for academics -especially early career researchers- to become involved in Public Engagement with Research including leveraging internal funding to support, and secure external funding for, such activities.
- vi. Ensure that excellence in Public Engagement with Research at Exeter is more widely recognised and rewarded.
- vii. Raise the external profile of Public Engagement with Research activity at the University of Exeter so that we become recognised as a thought leader within the sector, both nationally and internationally.