# Public Engagement with Research funding scheme

# Guidance

## Overview

Applications of up to £1000 are invited as part of the [Translational Research Exchange at Exeter](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/tree/) (TREE) Public Engagement with Research funding scheme. This scheme enables University of Exeter researchers and professional services staff working in health research to undertake high quality public engagement. There is flexibility in this funding whereby applications over £1000 may be considered in exceptional circumstances but this would need to be discussed in advance.

The scheme is funded by the Wellcome Trust, as part of TREE’s [ISSF funding](https://wellcome.ac.uk/what-we-do/our-work/institutional-strategic-support-fund).

## What is public engagement with research

Public Engagement with Research (PER) is a guiding principle of our research culture at the University of Exeter. We 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 public communities is necessary to support the quality of our research and ensure that our research can make a difference locally, nationally and globally.

PER is concerned with how publics are involved at different stages of the research life-cycle, for instance in design, conduct and/or dissemination, including:

* Consulting and listening to public views;
* Collaborating with public communities and involving them in sustained working relationships;
* Including public members in governance structures; and
* Informing and inspiring public communities.

## Eligibility

We welcome applications from University of Exeter researchers (including PhD students) or professional services staff working in the field of health research. This funding scheme is for applications up to £1000. Applications over £1000 may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

We particularly welcome applications from those who have been adversely affected by Covid-19 period (since March 2020), for example if caring responsibilities have impacted your work.

The aim of the funding scheme is to provide support for innovative and creative approaches to PER in health research.

There is no strict criteria for the types of public engagement activities we will fund. We are open to creative and novel ideas for public engagement. Example activities could be:

* Development of partnerships and collaborations with non-academic, non-commercial partners (for example patient groups, charities, artists, schools or clinicians)
* Try out novel and creative ways to engage non-academic, non-commercial audiences with health research
* Research proposal workshops, aimed at co-creating research questions

When assessing applications we will be looking at these key things:

1. Is there evidence of pre-existing collaboration with the non-academic non-commercial partner you propose to work with?
2. Does the proposed activity have potential impact beyond the activity itself? How will you how measure impact?
3. Are the plans realistic and feasible within the proposed timeline?
4. Are the costs justified?
5. Has the applicant considered how the engagement activities align with Wellcome Trust [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategy](https://wellcome.org/what-we-do/our-work/diversity-and-inclusion/strategy) for example, prioritising and including the most minoritised groups?

Applicants are encouraged to work with external partners in the development of the application, and to involve partners throughout. Be clear about who you’re working with and what their involvement in the planned activities will be.

## Before submission

We encourage you to discuss your application with TREE Communities Engagement Manager Katharine Fitzpatrick ([k.fitzpatrick@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:k.fitzpatrick@exeter.ac.uk)) prior to submission. TREE also holds [weekly drop-in sessions](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/tree/newsandevents/regularevents/) where you may wish to discuss your proposed application.

## Submission

To apply for this funding scheme, an application form should be submitted to TREE Communities Engagement Manager, Katharine Fitzpatrick, by emailing [k.fitzpatrick@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:k.fitzpatrick@exeter.ac.uk).

Applications can be submitted at any time; this is a rolling scheme until December 2021 with no close date.

## After submission

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis by the deciding panel which is comprised of TREE Communities Engagement Manager, TREE Research Project Manager, two members of our [public engagement group](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/tree/publicengagement/magpies/), and one senior TREE leadership team member.

We aim to return a decision to applicants within 3 weeks of submission.

If your proposal is successful, we will get in touch to confirm the outcome and we will send you a T1 cost code to use for your activities.

If your application is not successful, we will provide feedback on how the decision was made.

## Contact

For any questions and to submit an application, please contact TREE Communities Engagement Manager Katharine Fitzpatrick [k.fitzpatrick@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:k.fitzpatrick@exeter.ac.uk) or call 01392 727472.