

# Public Engagement with Research: Festivals & Events for Researchers to Engage the Public

- Festivals offer an excellent opportunity to engage the public with your research including those that are new to engagement, as you can focus on the content of your activity while the festival organisers look after attracting an audience and much of the logistics, such as venue hire and ticketing.
- The matrix below provides a list of the key festivals that take place in and around Oxford and includes some national festivals. Please note that calls for participation and contributions often happen well in advance of the event date – you need to check the website for more details.
- Some festivals charge a participation fee (to cover the costs of festival staff, venue hire and marketing etc.) and this, together with your activity development costs, can be included in some external grant applications such as Research Council Pathways to Impact and Wellcome Public Engagement Enrichment. There are also internal grant schemes you can apply to or you may be able to secure funds from your department. Some festivals also offer the opportunity to apply for small grants to develop your activity.

Festival/ Event	Key Theme	Location	Timing	Target Audience	Website
Ashmolean Live Fridays	Different themes	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford	Occasional throughout the year; Friday evenings	Mixed audiences including young adults & students	<a href="http://www.ashmolean.org/livefriday">http://www.ashmolean.org/livefriday</a>
Being Human Festival	Various themes around the humanities	Nationwide	November	Adults, young people & families	<a href="http://beinghumanfestival.org/">http://beinghumanfestival.org/</a>
Big Bang Fair	Science, Engineering, Technology & Maths; includes STEM careers	Birmingham NEC or London Excel	March	Secondary school pupils & families	<a href="https://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/">https://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/</a>
British Science Week	Science, Engineering, Technology & Maths	Nationwide	March	Families & school children	<a href="https://www.britishtscienceweek.org/">https://www.britishtscienceweek.org/</a>
Cheltenham Literature Festival	Literature & books	Cheltenham	October	Adults, young adults & families	<a href="http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature/">http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature/</a>
Cheltenham Science Festival	Science, Technology & Maths	Cheltenham	June	Adults, young people, families & schools	<a href="http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/science/">http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/science/</a>



Festival/ Event	Key Theme	Location	Timing	Target Audience	Website
ESRC Festival of Social Science	Social Sciences	Nationwide	November	Adults, young people, families & schools	<a href="http://www.esrc.ac.uk/public-engagement/festival-of-social-science">http://www.esrc.ac.uk/public-engagement/festival-of-social-science</a>
Green Man Festival – Einstein’s Garden Science Stalls	Nature, art & science.	Brecon Beacons, South Wales	August	Adults, young adults & families	<a href="http://einsteinsgarden.net/">http://einsteinsgarden.net/</a>
Hay Festival	Literature & books	Hay on Wye	May/ June	Adults, young people, students, young writers & professionals	<a href="https://www.hayfestival.com/about-hay-festival.aspx">https://www.hayfestival.com/about-hay-festival.aspx</a>
New Scientist Live	Humans, engineering, technology, earth and the cosmos	ExCeL, London	September/ October	Adults, young people, families & schools	<a href="https://live.newscientist.com/">https://live.newscientist.com/</a>
IF Oxford Festival of Science & Ideas	Science-focused alongside the arts, humanities & social sciences	Oxford	October	Adults, teenagers & families	<a href="http://www.if-oxford.com/">http://www.if-oxford.com/</a>
Oxford Festival of Nature	Nature, recycling & renewable energy	Oxford	June	Adults, young people & families	<a href="http://www.oxfordfestivalofnature.org">http://www.oxfordfestivalofnature.org</a>
Oxford Festival of the Arts	Arts & Humanities	Oxford	June/ July	Adults, young people & families	<a href="http://www.artsfestivaloxford.org/">http://www.artsfestivaloxford.org/</a>
Oxford Literary Festival	Literature & books	Oxford	March	Adults, young people & families	<a href="http://oxfordliteraryfestival.org/">http://oxfordliteraryfestival.org/</a>
Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition	Cutting edge science	The Royal Society, London	July	Adults, young people & families	<a href="https://royalsociety.org/science-events-and-lectures/2018/summer-science-exhibition/">https://royalsociety.org/science-events-and-lectures/2018/summer-science-exhibition/</a>

This resource was collated by the Public Engagement with Research Team in Research Services, University of Oxford  
[www.ox.ac.uk/research/public-engagement](http://www.ox.ac.uk/research/public-engagement) - [publicengagement@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:publicengagement@admin.ox.ac.uk)

