

ENRICHING ENGAGEMENT: FAQs

Last updated: 3 November 2020

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1. If I applied to a previous round* of *Enriching Engagement* but was unsuccessful, may I reapply to the current round?

Yes. However, we would strongly recommend that you make use of the significant Public Engagement with Research expertise and support provided as part of this programme to support researchers in the development of their Public Engagement with Research proposals. Contact: Brian Mackenwells (Public Engagement Coordinator, Medical Sciences Division, brian.mackenwells@medsci.ox.ac.uk) and other Public Engagement staff from your Division or department, as may be appropriate.

* (Round 1 deadline closed September 2019, Round 2 closed June 2020)

2. May I submit multiple applications to one *Enriching Engagement* round?

Proposed *Enriching Engagement* projects must directly relate to the research of your main Wellcome grant. You may submit two applications proposing significantly different public engagement activities relating to the same Wellcome grant. However, please note that Wellcome awarded Oxford with the funding to run the *Enriching Engagement* grants scheme on the basis of a set of goals, which included that under Oxford's management of this scheme a greater number and diversity of researchers would apply for and be funded to develop and deliver high-quality Public Engagement with Research (PER); including those new to this area. Thus, if in the current round the assessment panel recommends more projects for funding than there are funds to support, it is unlikely that two applications from the same PI in the same round would both be granted funding.

3. Are PPI (Patient and Public Involvement) projects eligible for *Enriching Engagement*?

No. PPI is required as part of ethically robust research and so should be part of your main research grant and cannot be funded through this scheme. However, patients can be one of your key audiences as part of your PER plans – but not as part of ‘formal’ PPI processes. If you are uncertain about how this may affect your proposed project, contact Brian Mackenwells (Public Engagement Coordinator, Medical Sciences Division, brian.mackenwells@medsci.ox.ac.uk).

4. Should I apply for a Small Award (£10k - £40k) or Large Award (£50k - £100k)?

Small Awards are to a) scope out, pilot and evaluate an engagement project, including seeking and developing new partnerships for development and delivery; or to b) develop, deliver and evaluate smaller scale activities and projects. Large Awards are to enhance and scale-up a previous/existing engagement project (funded via any source) that has already been scoped, developed and evaluated; and in which proof-of-concept has been established.

Furthermore, please note that the *Enriching Engagement* grant you apply for *does not* have to be commensurate with the size of your main Wellcome research grant/award. For example, you can have a modest main grant but a larger-scale engagement activity, or a large main grant but want to test the waters of engagement with a smaller project.

5. The total budget for my proposed activity falls within the funding size categories for *Enriching Engagement*, but I have partial funding from other sources – which means the amount I'm applying to *Enriching Engagement* for does not fall within the funding size categories. Can I still apply?

It is the amount *applied to Enriching Engagement for* that must fall within the funding size categories listed above (i.e. a minimum of £10k). Applications whose requested amount falls outside these ranges, even if they are for part-funding of projects whose overall budgets fall within the stated funding ranges, are not eligible. For example: if you already have £10k of funding from other sources for a £15k proposed activity, you cannot apply to *Enriching Engagement* for the remaining £5k - since the minimum application amount is £10k. *Enriching Engagement* is intended to make a fundamental difference to the development and delivery of projects that would not otherwise be possible; it is not intended to act as 'top up' funding.

6. I've read the guidelines and all the information on the website, but I am still not sure if I am eligible to apply or my proposal is within scope.

Detailed information is available on the webpage [here](#) and in the Application Guidance document available as a PDF linked on that page. If you have further questions, contact Dr Hanna Smyth (Grants Officer), at hanna.smyth@admin.ox.ac.uk.

7. Is support available for helping me refine my ideas or write the application?

Yes. In addition to the pre-application support workshops and consulting with your departmental/divisional public engagement colleagues, you can also request 1:1 application support from Brian Mackenwells, Public Engagement Coordinator for the Medical Sciences Division, at brian.mackenwells@medsci.ox.ac.uk.

8. Do applicants need to take part in the evaluation of the scheme?

As *Enriching Engagement* is a pilot funding scheme, it is important that we gather learning about effectiveness, efficiency and outcomes of the funded projects and overall funding scheme. As part of the evaluation of the grant scheme, you will be contacted by the evaluation consultants commissioned by the University of Oxford and Wellcome, to take part in evaluation activities to explore your experiences of applying for this grant scheme. Those who apply and are funded through the scheme are expected to provide learning, feedback and outcomes and impacts from their funded project *throughout* the process. You will be required to conduct evaluation and final reporting regarding your own *Enriching Engagement* project's activity; details of these requirements will be provided in your Grant Conditions document. We will use this information for monitoring, evaluating and reporting purposes, and research, learning and reporting to Wellcome. As this is a pilot scheme, which may also influence Wellcome's future engagement funding strategies, evaluation is key. *Enriching Engagement* is part of a larger Wellcome pilot exploring the benefits and drawbacks of devolved funding schemes; you can learn more in this blog post by Wellcome's Head of Public Engagement, Imran Khan, [here](#).

9. Am I required to attend the pre-application workshops and consult my divisional/departmental public engagement colleagues?

A fundamental part of this pilot grants programme is to provide support and guidance to increase the quality of proposals and impact of the funded projects. Applicants are strongly advised to take up the significant expertise on offer from the University's Public Engagement staff (based in Research Services, the Divisions, and some departments) to support applicants in developing their ideas and shaping their plans through workshops and one-to-one meetings. For further information, please contact: Brian Mackenwells, Public Engagement Coordinator, Medical Sciences Division, brian.mackenwells@medsci.ox.ac.uk.

10. Can my *Enriching Engagement* proposal's PI and Project Lead be two different people?

The PI listed on your *Enriching Engagement* proposal must be the PI or named Co-I of the main Wellcome grant whose research your *Enriching Engagement* proposal is attached to, as per Wellcome's requirements. However, the Project Lead can be another researcher or professional services staff member, or an external partner. The Project Lead should be listed as the first co-I on your *Enriching Engagement* application.

11. How can I find out about projects that have been funded in the previous rounds?

For a list of the projects funded in Rounds 1 and 2 of *Enriching Engagement*, see [here](#).

12. What happens after I submit my application via IRAMS?

Your application is automatically sent to your Department or Faculty for financial approval and then is automatically sent to the *Enriching Engagement* team. Dr Hanna Smyth (Public Engagement with Research Grants Officer) administers the application process. She will check the panel date availability you listed in your Case For Support document, and then assign you to a panel slot. You will be notified of your panel day and time shortly after the application window closes. All, or nearly all, applicants will be given a panel slot; there will be no pre-screening, with the following exceptions: 1) the administrative team will screen for basic eligibility and to ensure the project is within scope (and will notify the applicant if this has not been met); 2) pre-screening will only occur if an unusually high volume of applications is received, which the planned panels cannot accommodate.

13. What should I prepare / bring to the panel?

You should prepare a 5-8 minute presentation expanding upon the details in your submitted application. You may prepare slides (no more than 4) to use during your presentation – these must be submitted in advance to Dr Hanna Smyth (Grants Officer), at hanna.smyth@admin.ox.ac.uk. Your four slides should follow this format:

- 1 slide introducing key activities
- 1 slide on the engagement purpose and target public audience/participants
- 1 slide on your expected outcomes (i.e. the difference you aim to make; changes you expect to see)
- 1 slide on content of your choice

14. What happens at the panel?

You will be given a half-hour timeslot with the panel. For this current round of *Enriching Engagement*, due to Covid-19, we expect the panels to take place online. Following

introductions, you will be asked to give a 5-8 minute presentation explaining and expanding upon the content of your submitted application. The remaining 20-25 minutes of your slot will consist of a discussion with the panel. The selection criteria are in the Application Guidance document, which is available [here](#).

15. Who is on the panel?

Each panel consists of a chair and four panellists, who are a mix of internal and external to the University of Oxford. Once you have been assigned a panel slot (shortly after the applications close), you will be sent a document with the bios of everyone who will be on your panel. All chairs and panellists are academics or professional services staff with extensive experience in public engagement, from a range of disciplines and specialties. There will also be other people present including members of the *Enriching Engagement* administrative team, and external evaluators (who are will be observing the panel process for the purposes of evaluating the overall grants process – not evaluating the applicants!).

16. Who can I bring to the panel?

The PI should ideally attend the panel slot along with the Project Lead (if these two individuals are different), and you are welcome to bring other members of the project team, including external partners. The 5-8 minute pitch presentation during your slot can be presented by any combination of the above.

17. When will I hear the outcome of my application?

The *Enriching Engagement* team will endeavour to communicate all decisions as soon as possible after the panels have taken place, and aim for this to be no later than 4 weeks after the second panel date.

18. What happens after I receive my application outcome?

If you were unsuccessful, you will be given the opportunity to receive feedback on why this was the case. If you were successful, the *Enriching Engagement* team will send you award paperwork to sign, assign you a project mentor, invite you to a mandatory Evaluation Planning workshop, and work with your departmental finance team to get your award set up. This generally takes 1-2 months. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will also be subsequently contacted for evaluation purposes (as discussed in [Question 8](#)).