

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

- Festivals offer an excellent opportunity to engage the public with your research especially 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 internal and external public engagement grant applications, 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
Abingdon Atom Festival	Science and Technology	Abingdon	March	Adults, young adults & families	https://www.atomfestival.org.uk/
Ashmolean Live Fridays	Different themes	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford	Occasional throughout the year; Friday evenings	Mixed audiences including young adults & students	http://www.ashmolean.org/livefriday
Being Human Festival	Various themes around the humanities	Nationwide	November	Adults, young people & families	http://beinghumanfestival.org/
Big Bang Fair	Science, Engineering, Technology & Maths; includes STEM careers	Birmingham NEC or London Excel	March	Secondary school pupils & families	https://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/
British Science Week	Science, Engineering, Technology & Maths	Nationwide	March	Families & school children	https://www.britishtscienceweek.org/



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Cheltenham Literature Festival	Literature & books	Cheltenham	October	Adults, young adults & families	http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature/
Cheltenham Science Festival	Science, Technology & Maths	Cheltenham	June	Adults, young people, families & schools	http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/science/
ESRC Festival of Social Science	Social Sciences	Nationwide	November	Adults, young people, families & schools	https://esrc.ukri.org/public-engagement/festival-of-social-science/
Green Man Festival – Einstein’s Garden Science Stalls	Nature, art & science.	Brecon Beacons, South Wales	August	Adults, young adults & families	https://www.greenman.net/information/work-with-us/
Hay Festival	Literature & books	Hay on Wye	May/ June	Adults, young people, students, young writers & professionals	https://www.hayfestival.com/about-hay-festival.aspx
New Scientist Live	Humans, engineering, technology, earth and the cosmos	ExCeL, London	September/ October	Adults, young people, families & schools	https://live.newscientist.com/
IF Oxford Festival of Science & Ideas	Science-focused alongside the arts, humanities & social sciences	Oxford	October	Adults, teenagers & families	http://www.if-oxford.com/
Oxford Festival of Nature	Nature, recycling & renewable energy	Oxford	May - June	Adults, young people & families	http://www.oxfordfestivalofnature.org
Oxford Festival of the Arts	Arts & Humanities	Oxford	June/ July	Adults, young people & families	http://www.artsfestivaloxford.org/



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Oxford Literary Festival	Literature & books	Oxford	March / April	Adults, young people & families	http://oxfordliteraryfestival.org/
Oxford Open Doors	Celebration of Oxford's people and places	Oxford	September	Local adults, young people and families	https://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/content/oxford-open-doors
Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition	Cutting edge science	The Royal Society, London	July	Adults, young people & families	https://royalsociety.org/science-events-and-lectures/2020/summer-science-exhibition/
Swindon Science Festival	2020: Health and Medicine Energy and Environment Gaming, VR and Coding Space and Astronomy Future of Travel	STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway, Swindon	February	Adults, young people & families	https://www.scienceswindon.com/

This resource was collated by the Public Engagement with Research Team in Research Services, University of Oxford
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