

Vice Chancellor's Awards for Public Engagement with Research

"Public Engagement is essential if universities are to maximise their value to wider society"

(Professor Mary Stuart, Vice Chancellor).

Ensuring members of the public can explore, understand, value and gain from research is vital to universities today. Public engagement makes university research and researchers more accessible to wider society, increasing public support for research and opening up new partnerships and ideas. Public engagement supports recruitment and research excellence, with 47% of REF2014 university impact case studies including public engagement.

At the University of Lincoln, the **Vice Chancellor's Awards for Public Engagement with Research** aim to recognise staff and students who have made outstanding contributions to engaging people and communities beyond the university with knowledge, invention and discovery. Members of the public and staff/students at the University of Lincoln are strongly encouraged to nominate individuals and/or teams for awards.

Guidelines for award nominations

The **Vice Chancellor's Awards for Public Engagement with Research** will be made to individuals or teams from the **University of Lincoln** who have made an **outstanding contribution to public engagement with research (PER)**. The contribution may range from a single event to activity over a sustained period of time. Lifetime awards may be considered. Nominations can be made by staff, students or members of the public, using the nomination form (available from <http://pearl.lincoln.ac.uk/vice-chancellors-awards-for-public-engagement-with-research/>) and should include supporting evidence where possible. Brief sentences/bullet points are accepted. The deadline for completed 2019 nominations is **28th May 2019 at 4pm**, to be received by Rosie Damarell (HR) rdamarell@lincoln.ac.uk.

Eligibility

To be eligible for an award, nominees should:

- Have been involved in the activity/ies in a **substantive capacity**.
- Have engaged **at least 10 members of the public** (unless it is justified as to why fewer individuals were involved).
- Have been involved in public engagement which focusses on a **specific, identified piece/area of research**.
- Have been part of a **formally organised activity** (e.g. demonstration, experiment, consultation, lecture, interview, course, visit, exhibition) rather than an informal encounter.

Assessment criteria:

Nominations will be assessed with reference to any or all of the criteria below, although proposers are invited to be inclusive to innovative approaches if they wish. In assessment, the awards panel will give particular consideration to the **scale** of the impact and/or the **quality** of the impact and/or the robustness of the **supporting evidence**.

1. Delivering a **benefit to society**: e.g. informing, engaging, inspiring, involving, upskilling members of the wider public etc.
2. Involving members of the public in **genuine two-way engagement**: e.g. involving visitors in discussion, incorporating public suggestions into research, involving public participation in research, instigating public action etc.
3. Achieving a **sustainable legacy**: e.g. by raising educational aspiration, building organisational capacity, changing public policy or professional practice etc.
4. **Enhancing the quality or scope of research**: e.g. through attracting new partners, stimulating new ideas etc.
5. Showing **innovative approaches** to engaging wider publics with research: e.g. use of new technology, media, approaches, partnerships etc.
6. **Enhancing or promoting Lincoln as a 'Learning City'**: e.g. strengthening connections between the university and the city, attracting members of the public to the city for a research-related event.

Supporting information

Nominees are asked to provide information supporting their nomination under any or all of the following headings:

- **A narrative account** of the activity's aims and approach and the role of nominee(s).
- **Quantitative evidence of outcomes**: metric/statistical data e.g. numbers of people involved, demographic breakdown, % of participants reporting impacts etc.
- **Qualitative evidence of outcomes**: e.g. free-text comments from feedback forms, anecdotal evidence from members of the public, colleagues, researchers, students, other institutions/businesses directly involved in the activity.
- **Third-party data**: from parties not directly involved in the activity, including but not limited to news reports, social media comment, other award nominations etc.
- **Public outputs**: any other material made public regarding the research/engagement activity, including published papers, conference presentations, digital content etc.
- **Any other evidence**: as deemed relevant by the nominee.

There is no minimum word count for Supporting Information on the nomination form, however there is a 500 word limit per box. Information may be given in bullet points.

Further information

Winning teams will receive a certificate and £1000; staff will receive a certificate and £500. Annual awards will be received through the staff merit award system, granted in a combination of award for personal use and award for future public engagement. Winning students will receive a certificate and £100 in vouchers. Heads of School/Senior Managers (or similar) of nominees will be notified and an award panel will assess nominations against the criteria above. Heads of School/Senior Managers will be offered the opportunity to inform winners before HR sends a notification. All awards will be presented at a ceremony in Autumn 2019.

Any questions should be directed to the PEARL Team (details below).