

CONNECTING SCIENCE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PRIZES

CONNECTING SCIENCE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

GUIDANCE

Specific questions should be directed to the Public Engagement team at engage@wgc.org.uk

WGC in the following terms means the Wellcome Genome Campus. In the context of this Prize scheme 'public engagement' means an activity or body of effort created and/or led by a member of staff or student that fosters a reciprocal relationship based on WGC science/research with external groups or audiences

What are the prizes intended to celebrate?

The Connecting Science Public Engagement Prizes were launched in November 2017 to recognise, reward and celebrate staff and students across the WGC who have demonstrated exceptional efforts in public engagement.

The Prizes are overseen by the WGC Public Engagement team – part of Connecting Science. Four categories of prize will be presented in 2019:

Commitment to Public Engagement – Celebrating staff or students who have demonstrated significant and longstanding commitment to public engagement. One winner will receive £750.

Early Career – Celebrating staff or students at earlier career levels who have demonstrated pro-activity and achievement in public engagement. One winner will receive a personal prize of £500 plus a development award of up to £250 to be directed towards a public engagement or related professional development activity.

Support for Public Engagement – Celebrating staff or students who have supported public engagement through leadership, guidance, or practical or emotional support. One winning individual or team will receive £500.

Public Engagement Project – Celebrating a piece of planned work by a team or individual that demonstrates outstanding success in engaging external audiences with aspects of WGC science or research. One winning individual will receive £750 or a team will receive £1500 to be distributed between the team members.

What are the judges looking for?

While it is hoped the Prize scheme will stimulate a wide variety of entries describing a broad mix of public engagement activity, applications that reflect more elements of the following list are likely to be scored more highly by the judges:

- Activities that demonstrate relevance to WGC science and research including those that tackle issues surrounding the applications of genomics research to society.
- Creative and innovative approaches to public engagement that promote involvement and dialogue.
- Efforts to reach external groups or audiences, particularly underserved audiences and those who would not normally engage with WGC or science more generally.
- Evidence of achievement in promoting equality and diversity through public engagement including activities that seek to tackle gender imbalances in science.
- Initiatives that foster collaborative approaches to engage with bespoke groups such as educators, patient groups or policy makers.
- Demonstrable impact on audiences backed up by feedback or evaluation.

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- Activities that have a positive impact not just on the external groups but also colleagues, team members or peers.

For the **Support Prize**, judges will look favourably on applications that include:

- Evidence of support that has enabled public engagement reflecting the above elements to happen. Support can be through leadership, guidance, or practical or emotional support.

Who can be nominated?

- Anyone who works, or whose research is principally based, at the WGC (including PhD and pre-doc candidates) can apply or be nominated.
- Nominators must work at, or do research that is principally based at, the WGC.
- Individuals who win an award will not be eligible for the same award for a further two years. Previously unsuccessful nominees can be considered again.
- Applications for the **Early Career Prize** must be a PhD researcher or be in the first two years of a career relating to the work at the WGC (including post-doctoral researchers).
- Applications for the **Commitment Prize** should demonstrate sustained commitment to public engagement over a period of two years or more.
- Applications for the **Project Prize** may involve members outside WGC, however the application should demonstrate initiation of, and considerable weight of input to, the public engagement from those team members based at WGC. Lead applicants in this category must be based at WGC.

When and how to nominate

Nominations will be open until Friday 15 February 2019. Nominations can be submitted online at www.bit.ly/PEprizes or on paper by contacting the public engagement team and requesting a form. Self-nominations will be accepted.

Any person who receives a nomination will be contacted and asked to complete a questionnaire providing further details of their public engagement activity. Once this information has been received by the Public Engagement team, that person will be a nominee and considered for a prize by the judging panel.

Summary of terms

- Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered.
- In the instance of multiple nominations being received for one candidate, the number of nominations received will not be taken into account during judging.
- Nominees to all categories agree for their public engagement work to be highlighted in publicity channels produced by the WGC Public Engagement team. This may involve interviews and filming requests.
- Nominations will be assessed by a judging panel of internal and external experts in genomics, science communication and wider public engagement.
- Staff based across WGC where public engagement features in a major advocacy capacity or as an identifiable part of their role are not eligible to be nominated.
- Nominees can obtain feedback on their entries upon request.

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- Winners will not be eligible to apply for the same award for a further two years. There is no restriction on nominees who do not win re-submitting applications in subsequent years.
- We expect that nominees across all categories will be informed of decisions by mid-April 2019.
- Winners will receive their prizes at the Connecting Science Summer Celebration currently planned for June 2019 and are expected where possible to be available for this event, or if this is not possible, to nominate a proxy recipient.
- For the Early Career Prize, a development fund equivalent in value to the cash prize will be provided to the winner for public engagement activity or professional development activity of their choosing. These funds will be administered by the WGC Public Engagement team and should be drawn down within the same calendar year as the Prize award.
- The administrators of the prize scheme reserve the right not to award a prize or prizes in any category in a given year in the event of applications not meeting minimum standards set by the judging panel.
- The decision of the judging panel is final.