



**W**

**wellcome**

# **Research Enrichment – Public Engagement**

**Notes on applying**

---

# **We expect all our major research groups to engage with the public about their work.**

**We want researchers to explore how public perspectives can play a stronger role within their research. Engagement also supports researchers to build trust, helping society find value in the work they do.**

**You can apply for a Research Enrichment – Public Engagement (REPE) at any time following approval of your main Wellcome grant, but you need to be able complete your programme by the end of your grant.**

## **What are the objectives of REPE?**

- Research develops a stronger relationship with people through programmes that meet their needs.
- Researchers discover how public insights can help progress and develop their research.
- Researchers and their teams develop their skills, leadership and capacity for public engagement.

**To find out more, contact our Grants Information Desk:**

**T +44 (0)20 7611 5757**

**E [grantenquiries@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:grantenquiries@wellcome.ac.uk)**

---

# Who can apply for a Research Enrichment – Public Engagement?

REPE funding is most useful to researchers with some experience of public engagement who wish to undertake an enhanced programme of work. We encourage applications from researchers at all career stages with an interest in how public perspectives can influence their research ideas and practice.

You can apply if you are the lead applicant on a research grant under most of our funding schemes. The only schemes that are not eligible for REPE funding are:

- [Biomedical Vacation Scholarships](#)
- [Doctoral Studentships](#)
- [Engagement Fellowships](#)
- [Four-year PhD Studentships in Science](#)
- [International Master's Fellowships](#)
- [Master's Studentships in Humanities and Social Science](#)
- [PhD Training Fellowships for Clinicians](#)
- [Public Engagement Fund](#)
- [Seed Awards in Humanities and Social Science](#)
- [Seed Awards in Science](#)
- [Small Grants in Humanities and Social Science](#)
- [Sustaining Excellence Awards](#)
- [The Hub Award](#)

You must be able to complete your proposed programme by the end date of your main Wellcome grant.

If you are based in a research group or centre that already holds significant public engagement funding from Wellcome, you can still apply, but we would expect to see evidence that your proposal is linked to a wider public engagement strategy, is additional to the group or centre's own programme, and is specific to your research project.

**If your Wellcome funding is one of the following types, contact us before you apply as there is a different application process:**

- [a Wellcome Centre](#)
- [an Africa or Asia Programme](#)
- [a Developing Excellence in Leadership and Training in Africa Programme](#)

To help you develop your public engagement plans, test your ideas and build your skills, we recommend you draw on the expertise of colleagues with public engagement experience.

---

# What activities are in scope?

**REPE gives you flexibility to explore how more people can access, use and respond to health research.**

We encourage you to take imaginative approaches, and there are no set limits on scope, but your proposal should be underpinned by clear rationale and need. The ambition and context of your proposal should remain aligned to your research programme to ensure public engagement can best enhance or inform your work. We appreciate that applied research can often more demonstrably profit from engagement, but fundamental research can also benefit from fresh context and motivations, as well as an opportunity to build trust. This should not be overlooked and is of equal value.

REPE **cannot** cover engagement that is essential for the conduct of your research, such as to secure ethical compliance or recruit study participants. These count as part of your research methodology and should be included in the core research grant – not a REPE.

## **Essential activities not in scope for a REPE include:**

- community advisory forums to promote understanding and discussion around the priorities and agenda of the research
- consultation of communities directly affected by a particular piece of research to inform the research process
- building the capacity of communities affected by research to identify and communicate their needs and priorities around health
- lay or patient members of project advisory boards
- patient information leaflets and newsletters
- communicating with study participants about the research findings

## **Other activities that are not in scope for a REPE include:**

- symposia or other communication aimed at the academic community
- open access costs
- PR and press activities to communicate research to the public through the news media (e.g. press releases, TV and radio news, Twitter, blog posts)
- policy engagement activities that do not also engage with the public or involve the input of public perspectives
- activities where the primary purpose is to generate approval or acceptance of an institution, or to increase student applications to an institution
- support and teaching for undergraduates

---

## How much can I apply for?

REPE grants can range from £10,000 to £250,000. We suggest you think about a proposal valued at around 5% of your total research grant, but we are flexible as long as you are able to justify the amount you ask for, based on:

- the funding level and time remaining on your main Wellcome grant
- the scale and scope of your proposed public engagement programme

---

## What costs can I use the funds for?

The award covers the cost of running your public engagement programme, which may include:

- dedicated salaried posts, where appropriate
- other personnel directly related to the programme, including consultancy costs and project management fees
- the cost of a temporary research assistant/lecturer to cover research/teaching commitments
- direct activity and production costs, including venue costs, equipment and materials
- relevant training and development for Principal Applicant and those employed on the grant
- travel costs, including attendance at relevant conferences
- evaluation (including formative/development) costs
- administration costs that are not already covered by other funding
- marketing and publicity costs for events and activities
- Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly Criminal Records Bureau) checks for applications in the UK (Scientists can get these free by registering to be a Science and Engineering Ambassador – see [STEM Learning](#) for details)
- contingency and inflation – as long as reasonable
- VAT on fees (Your institution may not be able to recover all the VAT you pay. Please include any irrecoverable VAT in your budget when you apply, as we may not be able to cover it retrospectively.)

### You cannot use REPE funds for:

- full economic costs
- core overheads of the applying organisation not related to the project, e.g. heating, rent, etc.
- salary costs of staff who are already funded by their organisation (If your Wellcome award does not pay salaries, you should include time spent on public engagement in the number of hours proposed for your research project)
- expenses incurred in submitting an application, including attending interviews
- academic courses or research such as Master's degrees or PhDs
- costs arising prior to the start date of the project

---

## How and when can I apply?

You can begin your application for REPE funding at any time while you're applying for your main Wellcome grant. But you should only submit your REPE application when you've been informed that your main Wellcome grant has been awarded.

If you already hold a main Wellcome grant, you can apply for a REPE at any time, but you need to be able to complete your programme of activities by the end date of your main grant.

We make decisions on applications twice a year.  
See our website for [upcoming deadlines](#).

---

## How many times can I apply?

If you have made an unsuccessful REPE application, you can submit a revised programme of engagement work (similarly if you have previously unsuccessfully applied for a Provision for Public Engagement). Resubmissions of the same proposal will not be accepted.

If you already hold a REPE (or a Provision for Public Engagement) we may allow you to apply for a second award in certain circumstances.

Please contact us if you would like to be considered for a second application.

---

## How are applications assessed?

Your application will be reviewed by our REPE committee, using external peer review for applications over £100,000.

You will need to demonstrate that you are following your institution's ethical review process and its policies on child protection and health and safety. See this [guidance on ethical issues](#) to consider when developing a public engagement programme.

### Your application will be reviewed for:

- the way in which you are able to articulate the main outcomes you want to achieve during your engagement programme for example, through the use of logic models
- the people you want to engage with, and why you want to do this
- the feasibility of your programme
- the partners you'll work with and how you'll work with them
- how you'll evaluate your programme and share learning and/or contribute to the public engagement evidence base
- how the programme will either enable you to scope and develop new ambitious engagement approaches, or expand the scale, reach and impact of a proven public engagement project.
- how the programme will help you and others to build upon and improve your public engagement skills and expertise
- value for money

---

## How are activities monitored and how is this funding mechanism being evaluated?

We will ask you to report on progress as you would for any other aspect of your main research grant. This will be through your usual reporting tool. Submissions will be monitored by the adviser for your research grant.

To inform how we might develop new funding models in the future and evaluate the way in which REPE is working, we may contact you for further information about your grant.

**Wellcome exists to improve health  
by helping great ideas to thrive.**

**We support researchers, we take on  
big health challenges, we campaign  
for better science, and we help  
everyone get involved with science  
and health research.**

**We are a politically and financially  
independent foundation.**

**Wellcome Trust, 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, United Kingdom  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8888, E [contact@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:contact@wellcome.ac.uk), [wellcome.ac.uk](http://wellcome.ac.uk)**

The Wellcome Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales, no. 210183.  
Its sole trustee is The Wellcome Trust Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, no. 2711000  
(whose registered office is at 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, UK). PE-7304/07-2020/RK