

SEPnet Public Engagement Awards 2023 Categories

SEPnet Public Engagement Awards Criteria

- There are five categories to the awards: Projects, Individuals, Research Groups, Physics Departments and Partnerships.
- Projects, individuals and research groups can be nominated for more than one award however a nomination form for each award is required.
- Projects, individuals and research groups can be nominated in successive years for the same award. However winners will not receive the same award twice.
- Nominees must be involved in research at a SEPnet institution (or partnering with SEPnet institution in the case of the Partnership award)
- Those previously highly commended in a category are eligible to be nominated into the same category but must demonstrate to judges substantial improvement/development since the last awards.
- Work which has taken place in the period since March 2021 is eligible. When taking into account career breaks and other interruptions of activities the judges will use their judgement and extend this criteria where necessary.
- All award applications must be submitted using the web form. If submitting multiple nominations please complete the form separately for each one.
- Outreach Officers, Public Engagement staff and anyone working on Outreach or Public Engagement at 0.5FTE or higher are ineligible for the Individual Awards and for project awards cannot be the sole project leads.
- Please note School's Outreach activities not based on research are not eligible for any award.
- For all awards categories judges will use their expertise and decisions awarding decisions will be at judges' discretion.
- Nominations must be received by 5pm on June 14th 2023.

Newcomer award:

This award recognises an individual, or small group of people working together, who is new to engagement (started within the last three years) and has made a significant contribution that could include any type of engagement activity or project linked to research.

The nominees in this category are likely to be early in their research career and should have taken part in a significant project and/or a range of different engagement types.

Good nominations will include one or more of the following:

- Initiating and leading on an engagement project.
- A variety of engagement types.
- Developing their own activities.
- Defining the audience and aims for their activity.
- Clear evaluation of the activity.

Communication Award:

This award recognises an individual's, or small group of people working together's, ability to communicate their own research area, or that of their group or department, through different channels including broadcast media (television, radio or film), online engagement (videos, social media, blogs), writing for print or online journalism and public speaking (festivals, lectures, debates or panel discussions). Nominations should evidence a dialogue or other two-way exchange being generated with audiences where possible/appropriate.

Good nominations will include one or more of the following:

- Working across a range of media types.
- Engagement at a national or international level.
- Regular contributions to events such as festivals, lectures, panels, and online engagement.
- Ability to communicate their research to different types of audiences, giving evidence on how each audience is considered.
- Enabling two-way engagement with the chosen audience.

Innovation Project Award:

This award recognises projects which have delivered interesting and innovative ways in which the public has engaged with physics research. Nominated projects will have shown consideration of target public, aims & objectives, and an evaluation measuring outcomes and if appropriate measurable impact. Projects can include any form of engagement based on physics research with any audience.

Good nominations will include two or more of the following:

- Working with audiences who normally don't engage with physics research.
- A thorough evaluation of the project and its outcomes and measurable impact.
- Unusual and innovative ideas for engagement.
- Securing funding to trial a new approach or idea.

Achievement Award:

This award recognises an individual's record of sustained excellence in engaging different audiences with research through a range of activities.

Good nominations will include one or more of the following:

- At least ten years of engagement activity.
- Evidence of supporting others in their department and/ or research field with their own engagement activity.
- Engagement with a variety of audiences, through a range of different channels.
- Considering the wider engagement landscape and evidencing knowledge of best practice.

Impact Project Award:

Projects will have generated long-term impact from their research through any channel involving engaging with the public – including knowledge transfer, working with user groups, debates and many more.

The nominations in this category should be for a particular project resulting in visible impact where impact is defined as a benefit to, change within or influence on a group. For guidance use [the UKRI Research Excellency Framework definition of impact](#).

Good nominations will include two or more of the following:

- Evidence of the long-term impact achieved.
- Evidence of the reach of the impact.
- Evidence of the significance of the impact.

Research Group Award:

This award recognises a research group, or sub-group within a larger group, that has a well embedded culture of public engagement based on their research. Please use the [NCCPE's Edge Tool](#) to help show the research group has a gripping or embedded culture.

Good nominations will include evidence for three or more of the following:

- A clear strategy for public engagement activity with some form of formal oversight for delivery of the strategy.
- Co-ordinated group-wide public engagement activity rather than simply a collection of ad-hoc activity.
- Public Engagement champions within the group who support others to carry out public engagement activities.
- Staff and students are supported for accessing professional development, training and informal learning to develop their skills and knowledge of engagement.
- PE is rewarded & recognised in formal and informal ways.
- The research group has assessed need & committed resources to supporting a wide range of different publics to access its facilities and activities, and to systematically seek their involvement.

Public Engagement Champion Award:

This award recognises an individual whose support and actions have enabled public engagement in their department, research group and/or research field.

Good nominations should include evidence of two or more of the following:

- Building capacity for Public Engagement at departmental, institutional, national or international levels.
- Facilitation of public engagement.

- Championing public engagement at department, institutional, national or international level.
- Discussing and promoting public engagement with those they line manage/ supervise/ mentor.
- Demonstrating a clear understanding of public engagement within the Impact landscape.

Strategic Approach to Public Engagement:

This award recognises a department with a strong strategic approach to public engagement. This could be through routes such as departmental culture change, embedding of practice, or creation and implementation of a strategy. Please use the [NCCPE's Edge Tool](#) to help assess how embedded public engagement is/ to demonstrate change in this.

Good nominations should include evidence of two or more of the following:

- Significant departmental culture change over the last three years
- Embedded practice across the department
- Recognition and reward for engaged research
- Developing and implementing a coherent strategy

Partnership Award

This award recognises an external organisation or community group partnering with a SEPnet university or universities on public engagement activities. The nomination can be submitted by the organisation or by the SEPnet partner(s) and will be awarded jointly.

Good nominations should include evidence of one or more of the following:

- A long term partnership or relationship between the organisation and the university/ universities
- Joint activities or a joint programme of activities
- A reciprocal relationship between research at the external organisation and engagement at a SEPnet university of vice-versa