

## Places of science scheme notes

**Deadline: 12 November 2025, 12pm**

This document contains important information about the Places of science grant scheme. Please read it carefully before submitting your application.

**This guidance includes:**

- 1. What is this funding scheme?**
- 2. Who is eligible?**
- 3. How applications are judged**
- 4. Completing your application**
- 5. Information on next steps**
- 6. Application form and guidance notes**

We encourage all applicants to get in touch to discuss their ideas before submitting an application and members of the Public Engagement team are available for phone or video consultations at any point during the application process. If you have applied for the scheme previously and been unsuccessful, please do get in touch with us before you submit a new application.

If you have any queries about the scheme or would like to discuss your application, please get in touch: [public.engagement@royalsociety.org](mailto:public.engagement@royalsociety.org) / 0207 451 2248.

### **1. What is the funding scheme?**

The scheme provides grants of up to £3,500 to small museums, funding projects that tell the stories of science and scientists relevant to communities across the UK.

We want to fund projects that:

- highlight the topics, stories and people that are relevant to your local community
- present science in new and interesting ways
- encourage participation and involvement of the local community
- provoke curiosity, interest and enthusiasm among those that take part

We are particularly interested in projects that:

- explore the experiences of historically underrepresented people
- are led by organisations that don't normally feature scientific content
- involve partners that can enhance the project's outcomes, impact or quality
- reach audiences who do not normally engage with science

We love to hear about projects taking place at your museum and beyond; including but not limited to schools, community spaces, in nature, etc. We also encourage involving your local communities in any capacity – as participants, volunteers, or lived experience contributors and advisors.

We also strongly welcome applications from projects that align with the themes of the Natural History Museum's Fixing Our Broken Planet programme. In April 2025, the Natural History Museum opened a new gallery which explores the biggest challenges facing the planet and science-backed, hopeful

solutions which help us to create a more sustainable world. The gallery and associated programme delve into the themes of the food we eat, the energy we consume, the stuff we use, and the impact of all of this on our health. Through a Community of Practice, UK-wide organisations are supported to build best practice around communicating these themes through a skills and knowledge sharing programme.

Projects must begin on or before 31 August 2026 and all funded activity, not including evaluation and reporting, must be completed by 31 August 2028.

We will endeavour to inform applicants of the funding decision before the end of February 2026.

## **2. Who is eligible?**

- Institutions must have accredited or provisionally accredited museum status
- Institutions must have fewer than 65,000 visitors, or turnover of less than £200,000, per year
- Institutions must be in the United Kingdom
- Activities must be for a public, non-specialist audience
- The project must commence before the end of August 2026

## **3. How applications are judged**

Applications are judged by the Places of science allocation panel, which is made up of museum and heritage professionals, historians and scientists.

Applications will be judged on their relevance and suitability, impact and significance, and planning and evaluation.

### **Relevance and suitability (40%)**

The extent to which the project meets the scheme's criteria.

### **Impact and significance (40%)**

The effect of the project on the community, the museum and any partners and volunteers.

### **Planning and evaluation (20%)**

The coherence and feasibility of the proposed timeline, budget and evaluation plan.

The panel will aim, where possible, to select a demographically, geographically and scientifically diverse range of projects.

## **4. Completing your application**

Before beginning your application, we encourage you to read through the [Preparing your application page on the Royal Society website](#) which contains useful guidance and tips.

All applications must be submitted via the Flexi-Grant system. Below you can see the questions that will be asked and guidance on how to approach them.

### **Using Flexi-Grant®**

Applications can only be submitted online using the Royal Society's Grants and Awards management system (Flexi-Grant®) via [grants.royalsociety.org](https://grants.royalsociety.org). Support, FAQs and troubleshooting can be found via

[The Royal Society online Grants Management System – Flexi-Grant® | Royal Society](#). If you have not previously used Flexi-Grant®, please follow the registration process from the Flexi-Grant®, homepage. **Paper-based applications will not be accepted.**

Before completing the online form, all applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements and ensure all necessary information is presented in the application. These requirements are strictly adhered to and applications without all the necessary information will be rejected.

### **Use of Application Data**

If successful, the Royal Society will contact you regarding the administration of your award throughout the course of your funding and after its completion. You may also be contacted by the Royal Society for reporting and evaluation purposes throughout the course of your funding and after its completion.

## **5. Information on next steps**

Following the close of entries, applications are sent to the Places of science Allocation Panel, who solely make grant decisions. Please note that funding decisions will be made in January and the earliest you are likely to receive a grant is April 2026.

If your application is successful, you will be sent a grant letter and will be required to accept your award via Flexi-Grant®. You will also need to complete a new supplier form in order that we can make your grant payment.

If you have queries in the meantime, please contact the Public Engagement Team at [public.engagement@royalsociety.org](mailto:public.engagement@royalsociety.org) or on 0207 451 2248.

## **6. Application questions and guidance notes**

The application form divided into the below sections, all of which need to be complete in full before you will be able to submit your proposal.

We suggest you prepare your application offline, before submitting it via the FlexiGrant system. Please take a look at the application form notes below to get an idea of how long the application will take to complete.

### **Section 1: Eligibility**

By ticking this box you confirm that your museum meets the eligibility criteria for this scheme.

*Please confirm you have read, and that your museum meets, the eligibility criteria outlined above and on the [Royal Society website](#).*

### **Section 2: Contact details**

1. Primary applicant contact details
2. Organisation details

*Review and complete your personal details and details about your museum here accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in processing your application. Please note that you do not need an ORCID ID to complete the application.*

### Section 3: Project overview

#### 1. Project title

*Maximum 15 words*

*This should be clear, simple and eye-catching as well as accurately reflect your project and topic. This title can be a working title, as you will have the opportunity to modify the exact title of your project if you are successful in your proposal.*

#### 2. Who is your target audience?

*Maximum 100 words*

*Please provide as much detail for this question as you can. High quality applications will have clearly articulated audiences that are relevant to the project aims.*

*Consider how your audience might be defined. For example, by an age group, profession or shared interest.*

*Your target audience is who you are primarily trying to engage, but we would also like to hear about other groups you might want to engage, such as volunteers and staff.*

#### 3. Describe your project and what you plan to do

*Maximum 500 words*

*Please consider addressing the following questions here:*

- *What do you plan to do?*
- *How does this relate to your museum and/or your collections?*
- *What is the project's link to science?*
- *What is the relevance to your local community?*

*We encourage creativity and welcome projects that illuminate the relevance between science, culture, and the local area through art, historic collections, scientific equipment, and scientists themselves.*

#### 4. Name any partners and the role they will be playing

*Maximum 150 words*

*Please provide details of any partners and their role here.*

### Section 4: Evaluation and legacy

#### 1. What are the aims and outcomes of your project?

*Maximum 350 words*

*Here we want to know why you are doing the project. What will be different when you've finished? What are the drivers or needs for the project, from your own perspective and that of the public?*

*Try to be as specific as possible and distinguish between your aims (what you hope to change as a result) and objectives (the things you will do to realise those changes).*

*Your aims should be specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant, and be a result of your project.*

*You could answer this question as a series of bullet points.*

2. How do you plan to measure these outcomes?

*Maximum 350 words*

*You will be asked to complete a short report on the outcomes of your project, so you should think about evaluation from the outset.*

*Think about the aims and objectives you have set and how you will effectively measure them. How will you collect evidence from the public and your team?*

*How will you use the evidence gathered to a) assess the impact of your project, and b) inform future work?*

3. How will you maximise the legacy of this funding?

*Maximum 350 words*

*Please use this section to think about any lasting or future outcomes of acquiring this funding, including the benefits to your organisation and community.*

## **Section 5: Budget and planning**

1. How much money are you requesting? (to the nearest £1)

*You can apply for any amount between £500 and £3,500. This amount is exclusive of VAT. If your institution has to pay VAT, please include this information in the cost breakdown.*

2. What will you spend the money on?

*Please itemise individual costs as accurately as you can. Where feasible, any items that cost more than £200 should be accompanied by evidence of market research (such as a link to a website selling the item) or a quote.*

*Estimates are acceptable for smaller items but, if successful, you will be expected to return any significant amounts remaining to the Royal Society at the end of the project.*

*You cannot claim for the time of museum employees. You may budget for costs associated with acquiring additional expertise or support to deliver your project, including consultants, artists, designers and those helping to deliver public-facing activities. You should follow your institution's guidelines when costing for these aspects.*

3. Upload quotes and market research here

4. Provide details of any additional funding sources

*Maximum 100 words*

*If you are requesting a grant to part-fund a project, please include details of additional funding sources here. To remain eligible any potential Places of science grant should contribute significantly to the success of your project and meet our scheme's criteria.*

5. Please provide a timeline for your project

*Please include all key dates and milestones in as much detail as possible. We cannot fund projects that have already started and the project must commence before the end of August 2026. Projects should be complete by August 2028. Funding decisions will be made in late January 2026 and the earliest you are likely to receive funding is April 2026.*

## **Section 6: Marketing information**

1. How did you find out about the Places of science grant scheme? (multiple choice)