



Science Community Grants

Information session for potential applicants

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Science Community Grant



[royalsociety.org/
science-community-
grant](https://royalsociety.org/science-community-grant)

The **Science Community Grant**, funded by a generous donation from [The Julia Rausing Trust](#), is a new grant from the Royal Society Schools Engagement team.

It aims to:

- Support UK schools and colleges in undertaking more hands-on, inquiry-based learning.
- Allow students the opportunity to experience how science is done in practice.
- Provide continuing professional development (CPD) training for teachers and STEM professionals.
- Embed a collaborative community among schools and colleges to help support the delivery of practical science activities.
- Embed a culture of lasting partnership between schools and colleges and STEM professionals.

Science Community Grant



- 10 grants available.
- Funding of up to £105,000 to work with schools/colleges over 3 years.
- Payment schedule:
 - £45,000 on receipt of the grant in year one,
 - £35,000 in year two (after an interim report)
 - £25,000 in year three (after an interim report)
 - £10,000 of the grant will be retained in year three and paid upon receipt of the final impact report.

- Applications can be made through [Flexi-Grant[®]](#).

Who can apply?



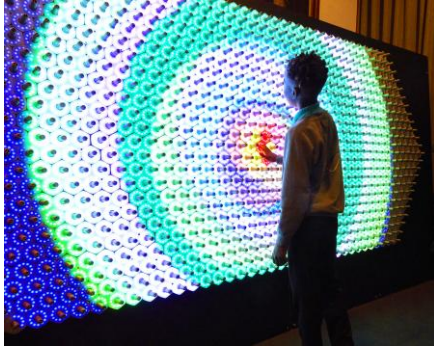
- Open to all UK-based STEM institutions/organisations with a significant track record of engagement with both **schools/colleges** and **STEM professionals**.
- Aiming to embed a culture of lasting partnership between the grant holder, schools and colleges, and STEM professionals, at an institutional level.

Grant deliverables



- Identify and recruit a minimum of 25 schools/colleges in areas of need.
- Work with multiple cohorts over the full three-year grant period (minimum of 30 students per cohort).
- Identify and recruit appropriate STEM professionals.
- Devise small-scale investigative STEM projects which last at least half an academic term.
- Create, maintain, and nurture an active, collaborative community within the grant schools/colleges.
- Provide a programme of CPD for teachers and STEM professionals to support grant activities.

Funding



- Organisational costs
- Equipment for schools/colleges (up to £1000 per school)
- Data collection and evaluation (up to £500 per school)
- School/college expenses (up to £1,500 per school)
- STEM professional expenses (up to £300 per school per year)

- Unspent funds can be transferred from year one and two with approval.
- Significant budget changes will need to be discussed.

Eligibility

Schools

- UK-based schools/colleges with a high number of students with low science capital and little experience of long-term engagement

Schools/colleges must also meet one of the following:

- Within an area of high socioeconomic deprivation (IMD).
- Higher than average numbers of students eligible for pupil premium support/ pupil equity funding/ pupil development grant.
- Within an area of education isolation.
- High proportion of students with SEND or alternative provision.
- Low prior attainment in STEM subjects.
- **Should be schools/colleges that you haven't worked with before.**

STEM professionals

- STEM professionals should be actively working in a STEM-related role, ideally with direct experience of research.
- Above graduate level (or similar industrial experience).
- Main role should not be the provision of outreach unless they also hold a research role.
- Inclusion of postgraduate students and postdoctoral early-career researchers is encouraged.
- Undergraduate students should not be used unless they are accompanied by a STEM professional who meets the criteria.
- All STEM professionals should have experience relevant to the investigation being undertaken or at least the general subject area.
- **2-3 in-person, in-school interactions per investigation.**

Small scale investigations



- Investigations must be defined in the application.
- Small-scale investigations should last a minimum of half a term (around 6-8 weeks) and be easily repeatable so that they can be carried out by multiple cohorts within a school.
 - at least 30 students but try to involve as many as possible.
 - linked to the curriculum/within curriculum time.
 - avoid activities where students survey themselves eg student mental health and wellbeing.
 - development of STEM skills.

KPI: By the end of the grant, **75% of students feel more confident** and/or have increased science capital, scientific literacy and data skills.

KPI: By the end of the grant, **75% of teachers will feel more confident** and/or have increased their skills in the delivery of practical science activities.

Community and Continuing Professional Development



Community of grant schools/colleges.

- mechanism is up to you
- sustained engagement

Programme of CPD delivered for teachers and STEM professionals.

- topics appropriate to the area/project/educational stage.

KPI: By the end of the grant, **at least 50% of the teachers use or contribute regularly to the active, collaborative community** created by the organisation, and/or feel that it has helped them to advance their skills and practice.

KPI: By the end of the grant, **at least 75% of teachers and STEM professionals will feel their confidence and/or skill levels have increased** as a result of the CPD programme delivered by the organisation.

Monitoring and evaluation



- Variety of methods needed to monitor and evaluate the success of the Science Community Grant.
 - surveys
 - three-monthly updates
 - yearly interim reports
 - final impact report
- focus groups
- yearly meetings at The Royal Society
- Use up to £500 per school to support evaluation.

The Royal Society and Partnership Grants



- We would like to be an active partner in your grants.
- Please include us in your events.
- Support for schools to apply for a Partnership Grant.

KPI: By the end of the grant period, at least 30% of schools/colleges will successfully apply for a full Partnership Grant.

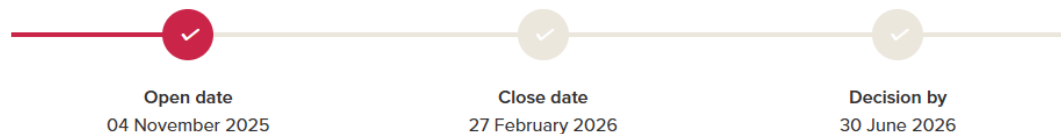
Applying for the Science Community Grant and support available



Application deadline is **27 February 2026**.

The application form in Flexi-Grant® consists of 2 stages:

- Stage 1 – basic details and eligibility check.
- Stage 2 – more detailed plans (inc. timeline, budget etc).
- Both stages need to be submitted by the deadline.



For further advice and support visit: royalsociety.org/science-community-grant or contact via education@royalsociety.org or **0207 451 2586**



Any questions?

**Get in touch at education@royalsociety.org
royalsociety.org/science-community-grant**