

Notes for completing the Summer Science Exhibition proposal form

Please read all the information before submitting your proposal form to ensure you understand the expectations, should you be successful. The purpose of the Summer Science Exhibition is to showcase cutting edge research being undertaken in the UK. Whilst exhibition teams can be international, exhibits should be led by UK based scientists.

Title of exhibit

This should be clear, simple and eye-catching as well as reflecting your research and scientific message. This title can be a working title, as you will have the opportunity to modify the exact title of your exhibit if you are successful in your proposal. It should avoid any technical words or phrases that may be unfamiliar to a non-scientist audience; you may want to try out your title with a non-scientist to check how accessible it is.

Summary of research for non-scientists

This should be written for non-scientists highlighting the most exciting parts of your research/exhibit. Why is it important? What are the main exciting discoveries you have made? Why will it be useful in the future? People find science engaging and interesting when they can relate to it, how will your research affect them? For examples of previous exhibits please see royalsociety.org/summer.

What makes this exhibit interesting for the public and post-16 students?

How would this science be relevant to a member of the public or secondary school students? What applications does it have for everyday life and how might it impact society? Is it relevant to any controversial or 'hot' topics in the news? The main reasons for the public's choice of favourite exhibits in previous years are those where the subject matter was particularly relevant to society, where the explanations were clear and the exhibitors were enthusiastic and helpful.

Interactive content

Briefly describe how you will bring your research to life in exhibit form. It is very important that your exhibit includes interactive, hands-on features. Although we realise that these will not be fully developed until much closer to the time, please give an indication of the interactive elements you propose to develop. You might consider real equipment and materials, models, demonstrations, simulations, live subjects, exciting visuals, computer interactives, etc. If you have any queries about the space available for exhibits, or health and safety issues relating to anything you wish to propose, please contact the exhibition team on **0207 451 2582** or exhibition@royalsociety.org.

Online content

The Exhibition aims to reach as many people as possible. Briefly describe how you could make your exhibit of interest to people online who may not be able to attend the exhibition in person, or for people to view either before or after their visit to the exhibition. This could include polling questions or quizzes about aspects of your research, blogs or online diaries of your research or exhibit progress, film-clips of your team doing research etc. You should also include any details of interactive online elements that could be used from your proposed exhibits. For examples of past exhibits, see royalsociety.org/summer.

Scientific content

Please briefly describe the science behind your proposed exhibit, explaining the ways in which the research is new, innovative or timely. Please note that although we endeavour to have each proposal assessed by a scientist with a relevant background, it may be read by someone who is not an expert in your field. The Society believes that exhibits focusing on areas of research that may be controversial provide an excellent opportunity for debate in the context of good science, and proposals covering controversial areas are encouraged.

Relevant publications

To ensure the level of science proposed is of the best possible quality, please list relevant publications to assist selection committee members assessing your proposal. It gives them the opportunity to read further literature relating to the quality of the science involved, particularly if the assessor is not an expert in your field of research.

Funding your exhibit

To allow us to ensure that the need for funding for your exhibit has been recognised and considered, please provide a brief outline of who you plan to approach for funding should your exhibit proposal be successful. Under special circumstances the Royal Society may be able to provide some support towards exhibit expenses.

Other comments

Tell us anything else about your proposed exhibit that may help the selection committee. For example, do you or your team have experience of similar events, or of other science communication activities?