

IOP PEGS 2024 – Guidance for Applicants

Applications are now open for the 2024 round of the Institute of Physics Public Engagement Grant Scheme (PEGS). The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 6 September. No late submissions will be accepted. All applications are expected to be completed through our online form available here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PEGS2024/> but if for any reason this form is not accessible to you please contact engagement@iop.org and we will do our best to help.

Timeline

We will accept applications on a rolling basis from 1st February to 6th September and have three decision making points during throughout the year.

Round 1: Applications received between 1st February and 1st April. Applicants will receive a notification of the outcome of their application in May, and payment no earlier than the end of May.

Round 2: Applications received between 2nd April and 1st July. Applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their application in August, and payment no earlier than the end of August.

Round 3: Applications received between 2nd July and 6th September. Applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their application in October, and payment no earlier than the end of October.

Project delivery must start during 2024 and must be completed by Friday 28th February 2025. If your project falls outside of this timeline this should be discussed with the team upon initial application.

IOP Team Support

The PEGS will be managed by IOP Public Engagement Officer, Imogen Thompson.

We will be holding online ‘surgeries’ on the last Thursday of every month (February – November) which will be a space for anyone to raise ideas, questions, feedback or issues with their projects.

Please email engagement@iop.org for joining instructions. Outside of these times the team can provide support by email, and by video call and phone by appointment. There is also an FAQ section on our website: <https://www.iop.org/public-engagement-grant-scheme-fags>, which is always a good first

place to check.

Application Process

The PEGS scheme supports the [Limit Less campaign](#) and is informed by the learning we have all accrued over the last couple of years with respect to equality, diversity and inclusion, the digital divide, and personal wellbeing. A full set of judging criteria are set out on the next page.

The grant scheme will be assessed via an online application form. Applicants whose projects pass eligibility criteria will then have their application assessed by a panel of reviewers from a range of backgrounds. They have strong experience of working in physics, physics engagement and outreach, engaging underserved groups, working in the community, engaging people through remote and digital platforms, and media and events.

Each application will be judged by a mix of reviewers, and final decisions made through a joint panel meeting to discuss the scores and outcomes.

If you have any questions at all, please contact engagement@iop.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Scoring criteria PEGS 2024

All applicants will be expected to:

1. Show that their project will support the aims of the Limit Less campaign by reaching one or more of the target groups listed (at the end of this document) in their family or community groups.
2. Evidence the following:
 - a. **New Applicants** to PEGS should show that their project aims to have positive impact on the audience relationship with physics by doing at least one of the following:
 - i. Deliver positive messages about physics, to key influencers in their lives (parents/carers, grandparents, community leaders etc.) and not just to young people themselves.
 - ii. Actively challenge stereotypes about physics and/or physicists
 - iii. Develop positive relationships between physics and public participants to grow beyond initial contact.
 - b. **Previously funded applicants** to PEGS should show continued alignment with the Limit Less campaign and effective use of previous PEGS funding by
 - i. Continued alignment with the aims of Limit Less (see part a)
 - ii. Evidence of effective evaluation, learning and improvement from any previously funded projects
 - iii. Evidence of positive impact on the participants from any previously funded projects
3. Describe how they will ensure their project will lead to an example of good public engagement practice in physics and with specific communities (see Limit Less audiences below).
4. Show explicit links to physics and its relevance to society, being specific about what physics is being included in their project, and how it will be made accessible to the target group.
5. Outline full project costs, including additional funding being used to support the project. Demonstrate how value for money is being achieved.
6. Provide details of how the project will be managed, including a timeline, project management structures, and risk mitigation.

Peer reviewers will allocate scores against each of these criteria. Scores will be moderated by the PEGS team and discussed in each panel meeting.

Limit Less Information

Limit Less target audiences are those currently underrepresented in the physics community. We are specifically trying to reach families with young people under the age of 16 that identify with one or more of the following groups:

- girls and young women;
- disabled young people;
- LGBT+ young people;
- young people from disadvantaged backgrounds; and
- Black Caribbean young people.

Limit Less key messages are positive messages around physics that aim to challenge some of the stereotypes that put young people off doing physics post 16. They include:

- Doing physics empowers young people to change the world
- Physics is for people of all identities and backgrounds
- Physics depends on teamwork and diverse viewpoints
- Physicist isn't the only career available to physics students
- Physics opens the door to many stable career options, including well-paid jobs that do not require a degree