

IOP PEGS 2025 – Eligibility

The Public Engagement Grant Scheme supports the [Limit Less initiative](#) and is informed by the learning we have accrued with respect to equality, diversity and inclusion, the digital divide, and personal wellbeing. A full set of eligibility criteria are set out below.

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

About you:

- Must be aged 18+; and
- Must be a UK or ROI resident (with an associated UK or ROI bank account) or applying on behalf of a UK or ROI resident.

Essential criteria

Your project **must...**

- Aim to improve people's relationship with physics;
- Aim to meaningfully engage with whole-family groups;
- Aim to reach at least one of the IOP target audiences (see below);
- Be free for participants to access;
- Have physics at its heart i.e. relating to physics/physicists/the application of physics;
- Outline project costs, including additional funding being used to support the project;
- Include an evaluation plan (**see additional information on evaluation**); and
- Provide details of how the project will succeed, including a timeline, any project management structures, and risk mitigation (including GDPR and safeguarding).

Previously funded applicants to PEGS additionally need to show effective use of previous PEGS funding by providing:

- Evidence of effective evaluation, learning and improvement from any previously funded projects; and
- Evidence of positive impact on the participants from any previously funded projects.

Desirable criteria

We will prioritise funding for projects which:

Physics

- Link with physicists and physics institutions. For example, universities and research departments, IOP members, IOP special interest groups, IOP-affiliated student societies, physics-based businesses; and
- Show the benefits of physics to society rather than just core physics concepts/topics.

Impact

- Have the potential for lasting impact, e.g. a demonstrable project legacy, a measurable change in attitudes/values of participants, develops ongoing positive relationships between physics and public participants, etc.;
- Combat stereotypes about, and/or include positive messaging about physics, physicists and physics careers (see below for examples).

Public engagement practice

- Show evidence of elements of co-creation or input from the target audience; and
- Provide evidence of public engagement best practice, such as two-way engagement and mutual benefit for all participants.

Project success

- Show that the activity is dependent on IOP funding, or that IOP funding adds a significant and distinct element; and
- Show that there will be relevant training for any volunteers or role models.

We will not fund:

- Projects focused on schools' engagement/outreach or in the formal education sector (including homeschool and school-based STEM clubs);
- Projects which will make a profit;
- 'Business as usual' activity for your organisation;
- Costs of salaries which are already covered by the organisation applying. Staff time can only be covered if full-time salary is not already in place. **(Please see additional restrictions about staff time)**; and
- Applications solely for equipment or hardware. **(Please see additional restrictions about equipment costs)**.

Additional information/restrictions

- A maximum of 50% of the grant applied for can be allocated to staff costs associated with the project, including any freelance costs;
- A maximum of 50% of the grant applied for can be allocated to equipment costs, unless there is a proven legacy of continued family engagement;
- We accept repeat applications from both successful and unsuccessful applicants/projects
 - If unsuccessful, please do not reapply without first receiving feedback on your application.
 - Returning successful applicants will be asked to provide additional information including evidence of effective evaluation, learning and improvement from any previously funded projects and evidence of positive impact on the participants from any previously funded projects;
- All successful applicants will be provided with an evaluation template to help with the monitoring, evaluation and learning of the project; and
- Evaluation plans should be proportionate to the size of the grant applied for and contain considerations of GDPR.

IOP target audiences and key messages

Target audiences are those currently underrepresented or underserved 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.

Below are key messages around physics, which 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; and
- Physics opens the door to many stable career options, including well-paid jobs that do not require a degree.