## Public Engagement at The University of Manchester

*Public engagement describes a range of approaches that universities or research institutes can take to involve the public with their work. Here are just a few of the forthcoming activities you may be interested in:*

To keep up to date with current involvement opportunities [sign up to the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health’s monthly Public Engagement Digest](http://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/connect/social-responsibility/contact/) which is sent electronically.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

[**Manchester Science Festival (MSF):**](http://www.manchestersciencefestival.com)MSF is the largest science festival in England and is a creative, playful and surprising celebration of science. This year MSF was hosted digitally and featured a program full of free online talks, exhibitions, debates and activities, which are all available to re-watch. The next MSF is due to take place during October 2024 where visitors will be immersed in the fascinating world of contemporary innovations and future developments.

[**The University of Manchester’s Universally Manchester Festival:**](https://universallymanchester.com/)This free community festival is a family-friendly event with a wide range of interactive activities taking place across The University of Manchester. For more information about previous events, visit the website for details.

[**ESRC Festival of Social Sciences:**](https://festivalofsocialscience.com/)The Economic and Social Research Council

(ESRC) Festival of Social Science is a week-long celebration of the social sciences and social science research, which takes place across the UK in October and November, with free to attend events suitable for all ages and levels of interest.

[**The Brilliant Club Placements:**](https://thebrilliantclub.org/) The Brilliant Club is an award-winning charity that recruits, trains and pays doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to deliver programs of university-style teaching to small tutorial groups of high-performing pupils in schools that serve communities with a low participation rate in Higher Education. The University of Manchester works with the Brilliant Club to host information and training sessions. Applications of interest can be made at any time. **Email:** [apply@thebrilliantclub.org](mailto:apply@thebrilliantclub.org)

[**#scicommburrito meet ups:**](https://katiesteckles.co.uk/scicommburrito/)A monthly-ish gathering of people who work in science communication, outreach or public engagement in Manchester. To be emailed a reminder of when the next meeting is taking place, contact Katie at [katiesteckles@gmail.com](mailto:katiesteckles@gmail.com) or follow [@stecks](https://twitter.com/stecks) on Twitter.

[**‘Platform Investigations’ at Museum of Science and Industry:**](http://www.msimanchester.org.uk/en/whats-on/activity/pi-platform-for-investigation)Featuring scientists and engineers from all fields - demonstrations, experiments, hands on activities. For further information visit their website.

[**Events and Exhibitions at Manchester Museum:**](https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/whats-on/)The Manchester Museum regularly holds events and exhibitions open to the public. Visit their website to see a full list of upcoming events.

[**STEM Ambassadors:**](http://www.stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors/)STEM Ambassadors use their enthusiasm and commitment to encourage young people to enjoy STEM subjects. They open the doors to a world of opportunities and possibilities, which come from pursuing STEM subjects and careers. Register online to become a STEM Ambassador. Free training and DBS checks are provided. They will send you regular updates about events in local schools that you can contribute to.

[**I’m a Scientist Get Me Out of Here:**](http://imascientist.org.uk)I’m a Scientist is a free online event where school students meet and interact with scientists in an X Factor-style competition where the students are the judges. Students challenge the scientists over fast-paced online text-based live CHATs. They ASK the scientists anything they want, and VOTE for their favourite scientist to win a prize of £500 to communicate their work with the public. The competition typically runs Nov and June every year.

[**Sense About Science and Voice of Young Scientist:**](http://www.senseaboutscience.org)Sense About Science works with scientists and members of the public to change public debates and to equip people to make sense of science and evidence. They manage Voice of Young Science (VoYS) which is a unique and dynamic network of early career researchers across Europecommitted to playing an active role in public discussions about science and changing the way the public and the media view science and scientists. VoYS members tackle misconceptions, challenge pseudoscientific product claims and respond to misinformation in all kinds of media.

[**Pint of Science Festival: #pint25 will take place 19-21 May 2025**](https://pintofscience.com/)**:** The annual Pint of Science festival aims to deliver interesting and relevant talks on the latest science research in an accessible format to the public, mainly across bars and pubs. They provide a platform, which allows people to discuss research with the people who carry it out, no prior knowledge of the subject is required. It is run by volunteers.

[**Bluedot Festival:**](http://www.discoverthebluedot.com) Four unique days of music, science and cosmic culture. This festival blends frontiers of science, art, and music, allowing people to get hands-on with interactive skills, talks, performances and more. It’s a family event set against the backdrop of the Lovell Telescope.

[**Annual International Pathology Day for NHS Scientists:**](https://www.rcpath.org/international/virtual-resources/international-pathology-day-ipd-2021.html)International Pathology Day (IPD) recognizes and celebrates the important role played by pathology and laboratory medicine services in addressing global health challenges and improving the health outcomes of communities around the world. As well as the conference, there are other ways to get involved e.g. connect and network on social media, organise your own event, or promote your activity on the official events calendar to help spread the word about IPD.

[**World Antibiotics Awareness Week**](https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/stories/antimicrobial-resistance/)**:** Every November, World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) aims to increase global awareness of antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers, and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance. Different institutions put on their own events to raise awareness.

[**Famelab:**](https://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/famelab)FameLab is an international competition to find the new voices of science and engineering across the world. Finalists from FameLab competitions from 23 countries will compete on the virtual stage to battle it out for the coveted title of global winner of the FameLab International Final in November. [The event is live streamed via their YouTube page.](http://www.youtube.com/user/famelab)

[**Brightclub**](https://brightclubmcr.org.uk/)**:** Bright Club Manchester is the comedy club where researchers, from all fields and backgrounds, take to the stage to perform short stand-up comedy routines about their work. Why? Because it’s fun, interesting, and genuinely useful.

[**Soapbox Science:**](http://soapboxscience.org/) A public outreach platform for promoting women and non-binary scientists and what they do. Soapbox science transforms public areas into an arena for public learning and scientific debate. More information about upcoming and past events available on the website.

[**Three Minute Thesis (3MT):**](https://www.researcherdevelopment.manchester.ac.uk/researcher-development-for-pgrs/three-minute-thesis-competition/) Postgraduate Researchers from across the University are invited to present a compelling spoken presentation on their research topic and its significance in just three minutes using only one static PowerPoint slide. Winners can then take part in a national 3MT competition.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

[**Public Contributor Training Programme:**](https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=59024)We have developed a programme of learning opportunities to aid Public Contributors with their involvement and engagement.  All the learning opportunities are optional and free to attend, however some opportunities are only available if specifically required for the role. There are also some external courses as well.

[**BMH Clinical Psychology Community Liaison Group:**](http://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/connect/social-responsibility/public-patients/get-involved/activities/community-liaison-group/)The Community Liaison Group brings together patients, carers and community members to contribute to all aspects of clinical psychology training from selection and curriculum development right through to providing training themselves.

[**University Partnership Initiative (SUPI): Engaging with Secondary Schools’ Training Opportunity:**](http://www.supi.manchester.ac.uk)Would you like the opportunity to develop an outreach activity and engage with a local secondary school? Are you passionate about your subject area and interested in taking your research into the classroom? Then this public engagement training opportunity is for you.

[**Getting started with Public Engagement**](https://app.manchester.ac.uk/training/profile.aspx?unitid=4907&parentId=4&returnId=4&returntxt=Return+To+Search&returnQs=%3fterm%3dengagement%26org%3d0) (search [FBMHS2107](https://app.manchester.ac.uk/training/profile.aspx?unitid=4907&parentId=4&returnId=4&returntxt=Return%20To%20Search&returnQs=%3fterm%3dengagement%26org%3d0)): Keen to engage the public with your research but not sure where to begin? This half-day highly interactive workshop has been designed for researchers who are new to, or have some experience with public engagement.

[**Other PPIE training opportunities available at the University.**](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/bmh/social-responsibility/public-and-patient-engagement/training-opportunities/)

**AND KEEP UP TO DATE WITH OTHER HAPPENINGS:**

[**The University of Manchester Public Engagement website:**](http://www.engagement.manchester.ac.uk)

Find out about all things public engagement at the University in terms of case studies, resources, training and development opportunities, funding calls, and more. There is a wealth of expertise across our University and there are often free events where you can share engaging ideas and experiences.

**Twitter:** @UoMEngage and **Email discussion list:** [public-engagement@listserv.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:public-engagement@listserv.manchester.ac.uk)

**FBMH Social Responsibility and Public Engagement (SRPE) Team**

The SRPE Team provides a one-stop shop for information, advice, networking and opportunities about engagement and involvement across the work of the Faculty. It’s aimed at researchers and teaching staff who want to engage and involve, and our public contributors who want to be engaged and involved.

**X/Twitter:** [@FBMH\_SR](https://twitter.com/FBMH_SR/status/1638895622131466242)

**Bluesky:** [srbmh.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/srbmh.bsky.social)

**Instagram:** [@bmhsocialresponsibility](https://www.instagram.com/bmhsocialresponsibility/)

**Email**: [srbmh@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:srbmh@manchester.ac.uk)

* [Digest/newsletter subscription.](http://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/connect/social-responsibility/contact/)
* [FMBH Social Responsibility blog.](https://blogs.manchester.ac.uk/bmh-sr/)
* [PPIE toolkit.](https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/bmh/social-responsibility/ppie/)

[**Research Impact Resources**](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/impact/)

A central resource for guidance, support and templates to assist with planning impact into research activities. Includes useful checklists, and tips on justifying and costing activities.