SEPnet Public Engagement Awards Criteria

- There are four categories to the awards: Projects, Individuals, Research Groups and Physics Departments.
- Projects, individuals and research groups can be nominated for more than one award however a nomination form for each award is required.
- Projects, individuals and research groups can be nominated in successive years for the same award. However winners will not receive the same award twice.
- Those previously highly commended in a category are eligible to be nominated into the same category but must demonstrate to judges substantial improvement/development since the last awards.
- Work which has taken place in the period since September 2017 is eligible.
- All award applications must be submitted using the web form. If submitting multiple nominations please complete the form separately for each one.
- Outreach Officers, Public Engagement staff and anyone working on Outreach or Public Engagement at 0.5FTE or higher are ineligible for the Individual Awards.
- Please note School’s Outreach activities not based on research are not eligible for any award.
- Nominations must be received by 5pm on Friday 19th February 2021.

Awards Categories

Newcomer award:

This award recognises an individual who is new to engagement (started within the last two years) and has made a significant contribution that could include any type of engagement activity or project linked to their research.

The nominees in this category are likely to be early in their research career and should have taken part in a significant project and/or a range of different engagement types.

Good nominations will include one or more of the following:

- Initiating and leading on an engagement project.
- A variety of engagement types.
- Developing their own activities.
- Clear evaluation of the activity.

Communication Award:

This award recognises an individual’s ability to communicate their own research through different channels including broadcast media (television, radio or film), writing for print or online journalism and public speaking (festivals, lectures, debates or panel discussions).

Good nominations will include one or more of the following:

- Working across a range of media types.
• Engagement at a national or international level.
• Regular contributions to high profile events such as festivals, lectures, debates and panel discussions.
• Ability to communicate their research to different types of audiences, giving evidence on how each audience is considered.
• Enabling two-way engagement with the chosen audience.

**Innovation Project Award:**

This award recognises projects which have delivered interesting and innovative ways in which the public has engaged with physics research. Nominated projects will have had a target public, set aims & objectives, and an evaluation measuring outcomes and if appropriate measurable impact. Projects can include any form of engagement based on physics research with any audience.

Good nominations will include two or more of the following:

• Working with audiences who normally don’t engage with physics research.
• A thorough evaluation of the project and its outcomes and measurable impact.
• Unusual and innovative ideas for engagement.

**Achievement Award:**

This award recognises an individual’s record of sustained excellence in engaging different audiences with research through a range of activities.

Good nominations will include one or more of the following:

• At least ten years of engagement activity.
• Evidence of supporting others in their department and/or research field with their own engagement activity.
• Engagement with a variety of audiences, through a range of different channels.
• Engaging at a wider strategic level.

**Impact Project Award:**

Projects will have generated long-term impact from their research through any channel involving engaging with the public – including knowledge transfer, working with user groups, debates and many more.
The nominations in this category should be for a particular project resulting in visible impact where impact is defined as a benefit to, change within or influence on a group. The impact may relate to wealth and/or job creation, environment and/or resource use, health, treatments and/or lifestyle choices, improving safety including influencing safety standards, influencing end-user practices, influencing aspiration and/or study/career choices, changing public understanding and/or appreciation of physics, influencing policy and/or infrastructure or service provision.

Good nominations will include two or more of the following:

- Evidence of the long-term impact achieved.
- Evidence of the reach of the impact.
- Evidence of the significance of the impact.

**Research Group Award:**

This award recognises a research group that has a well embedded culture of public engagement based on their research. Please use the NCCPE’s Edge Tool to help show the research group has a gripping or embedded culture.

Good nominations will include evidence for three or more of the following:

- A clear strategy for public engagement activity with some form of formal oversight for delivery of the strategy.
- Co-ordinated group-wide public engagement activity rather than simply a collection of ad-hoc activity.
- Public Engagement champions within the group who support others to carry out public engagement activities.
- Staff and students are supported for accessing professional development, training and informal learning to develop their skills and knowledge of engagement.
- PE is rewarded & recognised in formal and informal ways.
- The research group has assessed need & committed resources to supporting a wide range of different publics to access its facilities and activities, and to systematically seek their involvement.

**Public Engagement Champion Award:**

This award recognises an individual who’s support and actions have enabled public engagement in their department, research group and/or research field.

Good nominations should include evidence of one or more of the following:

- Facilitation of public engagement
- Championing public engagement at department level, national or international level
- Discussing and promoting public engagement with those they line manage/supervise/mentor
- Demonstrates a clear understanding of Public Engagement within the Impact landscape
Strategic Approach to Public Engagement:

This award recognises a department with a strong strategic approach to public engagement. This could be through routes such as departmental culture change, embedding of practice, or creation and implementation of a strategy. Please use the NCCPE’s Edge Tool to help assess how embedded public engagement is/to demonstrate change in this.

Good nominations should include evidence of one or more of the following:

- Significant departmental culture change over the last two years
- Embedded practice across the department
- Recognition and reward for engaged research
- Developing and implementing a coherent strategy

COVID-19 Response Award

This award recognises an individual, research group or department who adapted their engagement activity to reach audiences during the COVID-19 lockdown and pandemic. This could be through adapting activities to be delivered remotely, sending resources to communities, finding innovative ways to safely engage with audiences, or through various other means.

Good nominations should include evidence of one or more of the following:

- Commitment to maintain quality two way engagement through the COVID-19 pandemic
- Innovative methods of engaging with target audiences
- Work which actively aims to counter societal inequalities which were further enhanced by the COVID-19 pandemic