



The Vice-Chancellor's
Engage Awards



2021

The Vice-Chancellor's Engage Awards

Established in 2013, the Vice-Chancellor's Engage Awards recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements of colleagues who engage people beyond the University. For 2021 the Engage Awards also includes engagement by all staff and doctoral students in the local area and across the civic realm.

Run by the Public Engagement Unit biennially, the Engage Awards invite colleagues to submit projects for consideration in the different award categories that best reflects the purpose of their engagement.

This year we received a record number of submissions from 15 departments across the University. These submissions were then reviewed by a panel of judges including:

Chair
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Professor Jonathan Knight FRS

Dr Janet Bultitude
(Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology, and winner of Leadership Engage Award 2019)

Dr Marianne Ellis
(Head of Department of Chemical Engineering),

Dom Galliano
(Head of Public Engagement at University College London)

Emily Malik
(Director of EcoWild, a Bath-based conservation and education charity)



Informing category

Celebrating outstanding projects and activities that aim to inform and share research knowledge with public groups. The 2021 shortlist is:



Dr Ben Ainsworth
Lecturer,
Department of Psychology

Co-developed by Ben, Germ Defence is a web-based app that aims to advise people on infection control at home. To increase the use of the app during the COVID-19 emergency, Ben: worked to raise the app's profile with extensive media engagement, collaborated with local GPs to develop app use instructions, translated Germ Defence into 25 different languages and developed accessible infographic instructions for people with English as a second language.



Dr Jo Daniels
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Psychology

Jo is recognised for her extensive media engagement with her research into anxiety in medical conditions and how it related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This work reached diverse public groups, from listeners to BBC Radio 1's Newsbeat, readers of the New York Times, to followers of the Stylist Magazine's Instagram account. As a result of this high-profile media presence, Jo has raised her profile and pivoted her research focus to new cross-disciplinary and multi-institution research collaborations.



Naomi Heffer and Mike Richardson
Doctoral Students,
Department of Psychology

Studying multisensory perception, doctoral students Naomi and Mike share an enthusiasm for communicating the science of sensation, perception, and cognition in fun and exciting ways. Alongside their studies, the pair have created an online presence that engages young adults 18-35. Through their use of social media and podcasts about their research, they have developed new skills and raised their profile within their department across their field.



Dr Tiffany Taylor
Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellow,
Department of Biology & Biochemistry

Core concepts in genetic such as DNA, genes, mutation, and heritability have the potential to be challenging to understand for primary school-aged children. Little Stories is a series of picture books authored by Tiffany to introduce these ideas through storytelling. Using the latest educational research from the Milner Centre for Evolution, these books respond to evidence of best practice in teaching scientific concepts. They have been downloaded by schools in 71 countries.

Working Together category

Celebrating outstanding projects and activities that have involved working with people and public groups. The 2021 shortlist is:



Alice Chadwick El-Ali
Doctoral Student,
Department of Social & Policy Sciences

Working with non-governmental organisations in Sierra Leone involved in the Ebola outbreak of 2014-2016, Alice engaged volunteers who responded to this health emergency. As well as being involved in the design of the research process, Alice worked with volunteering organisations in the country to develop materials, resources, and policy briefs to share the outcomes of her research and inform best practice approaches into the role of volunteering.



Dr Katie Maras
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Psychology

Katie's research focuses on the experiences and treatment of autistic people when they encounter the criminal justice system. Working with the Avon and Somerset Police force, Katie has co-developed several interventions to change practices and improve outcomes for autistic people, such as training workshops for police staff, improved custody environments, and guidance on adapting interview techniques.



Dr Jenny Scott
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology

Jenny worked with people who use drugs and those who deliver frontline care from pharmacies to co-produce an intervention to improve the take-up of emergency medication during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the project to ensure successful delivery of the intervention, Jenny worked with local pharmacies to develop a training and support package for pharmacy teams which, since March 2020, has been rolled out to four other regions of England.



Local and Civic Engagement category

Celebrating and rewarding projects, teams and individuals who have made outstanding civic contributions to the local area on behalf of the University. The 2021 shortlist is:



Josh Hale
Volunteer Coordinator,
The SU Bath

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Josh worked extensively with third sector umbrella organisation 3SG to support social enterprises, faith and voluntary organisations across Bath and North East Somerset. His achievements during this time involved establishing a befriending scheme and creating and distributing physical wellbeing packs to adults who lacked access to the internet.



Dr Alex Lunt
Lecturer,
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Alex led on and mobilised a team of 70 colleagues from right across the University who gave nearly 7,000 hours of their time to produce more than 400,000 pieces of personal protective equipment for frontline health and social care services during the COVID-19 emergency. The project ensured that keyworkers were provided with a consistent supply of equipment during the early stages of the pandemic and enhanced existing University relationships with local healthcare facilities.



Julie Morton
Programme Manager,
Vice-Chancellor's Office

For the Beyond the Car project, Julie led a three-day workshop that brought together researchers, local councillors and policymakers, residents, and organisations such as Sustrans and the Royal United Hospitals to explore issues around air pollution and transport. Through this work, Julie has developed an effective and sustainable working relationship with Bath and North East Somerset Council, demonstrating how the University can address key challenges in the local area to affect positive change.



Leadership category

Celebrating an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the culture of public engagement at the University. This Award category recognises a strong commitment to promoting the benefits of public engagement and influencing, encouraging, and supporting others to engage public groups with their research. The 2021 shortlisted candidate for the Leadership category is:



Professor Chris Budd
Department of Mathematical Sciences

For 20 years Chris has led the way in activities that engage people with his research and mathematical sciences. As well as taking a leading role delivering activities himself, most recently as Gresham Professor of Geometry delivering 24 Gresham lectures at the Gresham College, London, Chris has set-up initiatives that have served to support the professional development of colleagues in public engagement. These include the local science festival Bath Taps into Science, that has seen academic colleagues from across the faculties of Science and Engineering and Design develop and deliver activities that engage young people and families with their work and the Communicating Maths undergraduate module that supports students to develop key engagement and communication skills.

The Public Engagement Unit

Established in 2012, the Public Engagement Unit works across the University to foster a culture where engaging people outside of academia with research is practiced, valued, and celebrated. We work across four strands:

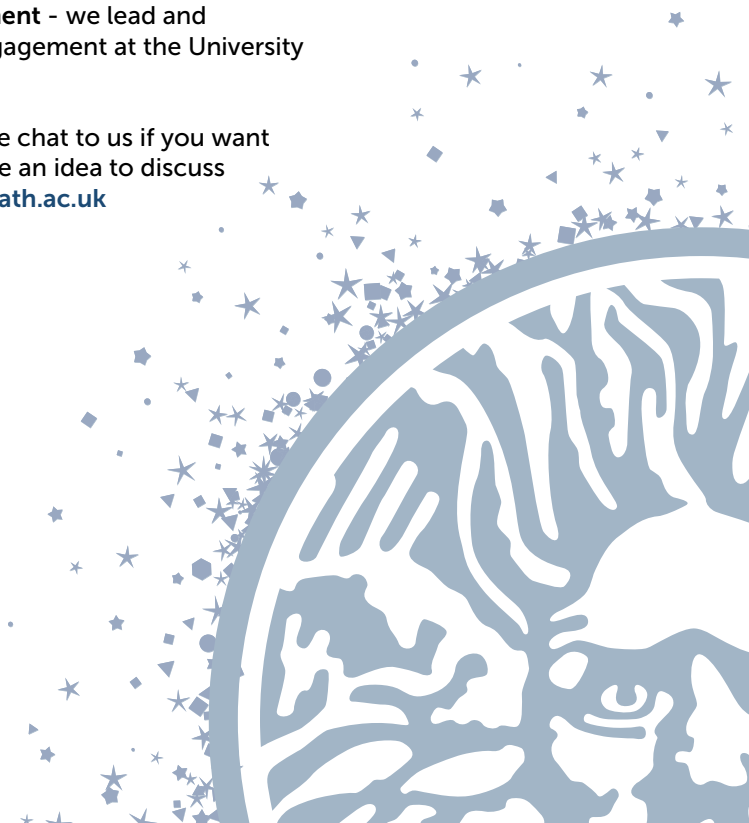
Doing Engagement – through our small grants scheme and activities we offer opportunities to get involved in public engagement.

Learning about Engagement – with a portfolio of training opportunities we support professional development in public engagement.

Celebrating Engagement – we reward and recognise colleagues who work to engage public groups with their research and help raise their profile.

Leadership in Engagement - we lead and advocate for public engagement at the University and across the sector.

Drop us a line and come chat to us if you want to find out more or have an idea to discuss public-engagement@bath.ac.uk





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