



Guidance document

NC3Rs Public Engagement Awards – 20-year anniversary

1. Introduction

Through this award scheme the NC3Rs aims to encourage and support researchers working to advance the 3Rs to share the benefits of their research for science and society. We are seeking applications that contribute to a series of thought-provoking events and activities across the UK, which will be used to stimulate and support further public engagement activities in the future.

We are currently accepting proposals for events and activities to take place in 2024, as part of celebrations to mark the 20-year anniversary of the NC3Rs. The public engagement award scheme has previously been restricted to current and former NC3Rs-funded researchers, who received awards of up to £1,500. The 20-year anniversary public engagement awards are open to all scientists whose work advances the 3Rs, regardless of funder, who can apply for funding of up to £2,000 to support their proposed activity.

The funding is available as an open rolling call, where the applications are reviewed quarterly by the NC3Rs Office.

2. Objectives of the scheme

- To provide funding to 3Rs-minded researchers, to enable and encourage them to undertake public engagement and dialogue.
- To promote and explain the 3Rs, publicising research outcomes and their implications for scientific progress, animal welfare and human health.

3. Eligibility to apply

- Scientists at all career stages whose research advances the 3Rs, regardless of funder.
- Applicants can be a current or previous recipient (principal investigator/co-investigator or current research group member) of an NC3Rs grant, Fellowship or Studentship.
- Applicants must be based in a non-profit, academic institution, including Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Independent Research Organisations (IROs) and Research Council (RC) Institutes.
- Events funded by the 20-year NC3Rs public engagement awards must take place within 2024.

- Applicants who received NC3Rs public engagement award(s) in the past are eligible to apply.

4. Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed by the NC3Rs Office.

Applications should demonstrate:

- Clear communication of the 3Rs benefits of the research being discussed.
- Relevance to current research and the interests of the target audience, with exploration of the subject matter, rather than information provision.
- That the activity is sufficiently targeted and accessible to the chosen audience, with plans for publicity to attract the intended audience.
- That sensitivities to animal research have been considered.
- Clear objectives for the engagement activity and the potential to make an impact on the target audience.
- Value for money.

Priority will be given to applications that:

- Encourage public groups, particularly adults, to enter into dialogue with researchers.
- Link the 3Rs to external events in the wider community e.g. local festivals.
- Develop reusable resources.
- Provide opportunities for early-career researchers to develop their science communication skills.

Grants will not be awarded to projects that:

- Take place outside of the UK.
- Cover the cost of project staff who receive a full-time salary from their organisation or employer, or planned grant activities.
- Cover the cost of projects which are already part of an organisation's usual programme of activities.
- Include fees for honoraria to people to give talks – however, reasonable travel expenses will be covered.
- Cover the cost of general purpose hardware, apparatus or equipment such as digital cameras, laboratory equipment or computers etc, unless it is shown to be integral to the project, will be used beyond the project lifetime to communicate the 3Rs and does not take up the majority of the project costs.

- Include fees for website construction, unless it forms an online element of a live event.

5. Application process

The application form can be downloaded as a word document from:

nc3rs.org.uk/our-funding-schemes/public-engagement-awards#downloads.

All applicants must have approval from their institution. The applicant must fulfil the eligibility criteria. It is advised that prior to submitting an application form that interested applicants discuss their ideas with the NC3Rs Office.

Please contact:

Dr Genevieve Barr, Science Manager – Communications genevieve.barr@nc3rs.org.uk.

Final applications must be submitted by email to genevieve.barr@nc3rs.org.uk.

Applications are treated in confidence.

The internal assessment committee will meet in the last week of October 2023, January, April and July 2024 to review proposals for 20-year anniversary public engagement awards.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome within one month of the committee meeting.

6. Financial arrangements

No applications higher than £2,000 will be awarded.

Awards will be paid to the institution that employs the applicants. The awards will be cash limited and will not be supplemented during the course of the award. Institutions must ensure the funds awarded are used to support the project as approved by the NC3Rs. Funds cannot be used to run activities after 2024 and any expenditure incurred after 31 December 2024 will not be met by the NC3Rs.

Awards will be paid by UK SBS on behalf of the NC3Rs.

7. Reporting

All recipients of funding will be required to complete and return a brief final report on completion of the award. A form will be sent to the applicant when the award is confirmed. Sections of this report may be published on the NC3Rs website.

Applicants will also be requested to submit any promotional materials generated from the project such as press cuttings or photos. Permission must be sought from applicants for their use by the NC3Rs; a photo permission form will be supplied by the NC3Rs.

8. Key dates

Application deadline: Rolling.

Assessment committee meetings: Last week of October 2023, January, April and July 2024.

Outcome notification: One month post assessment.

Award completion deadline: During 2024.

Informal report submission: No longer than one month following completion of the engagement activity.