



Guidance

NC3Rs public engagement awards

1. Introduction

Through this award scheme the NC3Rs aims to encourage and support NC3Rs-funded researchers to share the benefits of 3Rs research. We are seeking applications that will create 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.

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 NC3Rs-funded 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

- Applicants must 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.
- Events funded by the NC3Rs public engagement awards must take place within six months of receiving the award.
- 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 NC3Rs-funded 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:

www.nc3rs.org.uk/publicengagementawards

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:

Emma Stokes, Communications Programme Manager
emma.stokes@nc3rs.org.uk, 020 7611 2098

Final applications must be submitted by email to emma.stokes@nc3rs.org.uk

Applications are treated in confidence.

The internal assessment committee meets in the first week of January, April, July and October. Applicants will be notified of the outcome within one month of the committee meeting.

6. Financial arrangements

No applications higher than £1,500 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 more than six months after receiving the award and any expenditure incurred after this date 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

Assessment committee meetings	First week of January, April, July, October
Outcome notification	One month post assessment
Award completion deadline	Six months post award
Informal report submission	No longer than one month following completion of the engagement activity