# Engagement Excellence Scheme 2021-22

September2021

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RIS, University of Leeds

## Application for the Engagement Excellence Scheme is open for the academic year 2021-22

**Deadline: Monday 11 October 2021, 5pm**

## Overview of Engagement Excellence Scheme

The Engagement Excellence Scheme aims to build researchers’ skills, knowledge, confidence and leadership skills to undertake public or policy engagement activities, and to create a network of research engagement champions across the University. The scheme is open to staff members from **all** **faculties.**

New this year, the scheme now offers a policy engagement track.

The successful public engagement track (including patient involvement) continues from previous years, supported by the public engagement team. You can see what previous fellows thought of the scheme in the following document: Reflections of previous Engagement Excellence Fellows

The new policy engagement track will be supported by Policy Leeds and Leeds Social Sciences Institute (LSSI). The policy track will follow the same structure as the public engagement track, but with the training tailored for policy engagement.

### We are looking for people who

* are passionate about engaged research with the public or policy communities; and/or
* have novel, innovative and ambitious ideas for public/policy engagement with research; and/or
* want to increase the impact of a project in their group, Institute or School through public/policy engagement with research; and/or
* would like to develop skills to become a leader for engaged research at their Institute/School; and/or
* would like to expand their research engagement experience e.g., have worked in outreach with schools and would like to branch out into public engagement with research; and/or
* are University Academic Fellows.

## For both tracks:

Up to six Engagement Fellows will be accepted onto each track. Fellows will receive mentorship and coaching support, and a bursary of up to £500 for a public/policy engagement project. During the course of the scheme the fellows will progress their public/policy engagement activity in order to enhance and build the impact of their research or on-going research within their School/Institute.

The course is a mix of project planning sessions and training sessions, each lasting for about for two hours. Project planning sessions will allow Fellows to receive individualised guidance from the mentors and course leaders and feedback from peers to help them develop their activities. Training sessions will be aligned to the needs of Fellows. For more details of the different tracks and course timetables, please see below.

To graduate Fellows are expected to attend at least six sessions (including all three project planning sessions), deliver one public/policy facing research engagement activity and submit three short reports.

Engagement Excellence Fellows on both tracks will have a chance to meet ahead of the course to see what other projects are planned, and again at graduation, to celebrate each other’s successes.

**To apply for either track, please submit your completed** [**application form**](https://ris.leeds.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/EES-Application-Form-21-22_final.docx) **to** [**peteam@leeds.ac.uk**](mailto:peteam@leeds.ac.uk) **by Monday 11 October 2021, 5pm.**

Decisions will be made by the end of September. If you do not indicate which track you are applying for, you will be assigned to the most appropriate for your project.

## Public engagement and public and patient involvement (PPI) track

The Public Engagement Fellows will receive guidance from academic champions Professor Sue Pavitt, Dr Leila Jancovich, Dr Helen Graham, and professional champions Shauni Sanderson and Dr Alexa Ruppertsberg; peer support from other Engagement Fellows; university-wide networks like Engaged Research; and exposure to other engagement projects taking place at the University.

If you have any questions for this track, please contact the Public Engagement team ([peteam@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:peteam@leeds.ac.uk)).

## Policy engagement track

The Policy Engagement Fellows will be guided through the scheme by Juliet Jopson (Policy officer, [Policy Leeds](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130600/policy_leeds)) and Camilla McCartney (Public and policy engagement officer, [Leeds Social Sciences Institute, LSSI](https://lssi.leeds.ac.uk/)). Each fellow will be matched with a mentor identified through Policy Leeds and LSSI’s networks, such as [Policy Leeds policy leaders](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130600/policy_leeds/1001/policy_leaders). Fellows will meet individually with their mentors 3-4 times over the course of their project. They will also benefit from peer support from other Engagement Fellows; university-wide networks like Engaged Research; and exposure to other engagement projects taking place at the University.

If you have any questions for this track, please contact Juliet Jopson at Policy Leeds ([policyleeds@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:policyleeds@leeds.ac.uk)).

## Indicative Meeting schedule

### Public engagement and public and patient involvement (PPI) track

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| Date | Theme |
| 1-2pm 2 November 2021 | Kick-off meetingfor the 2021-22 cohort of Engagement Excellence Fellows (both tracks together) |
| 1-3pm 4 November 2021 | **Project planning meeting 1** |
| 1-3pm TBC early December 2021 | Introduction into Public Engagement |
| 1-3pm TBC January 2022 | Workshop Facilitation |
| 1-3pm TBC February 2022 | **Project planning meeting 2** |
| 1-3pm TBC March 2022 | Evaluation |
| 1-3pm TBC April 2022 | Ethics in Engagement |
| 1-3pm TBC May 2022 | **Project planning meeting 3** |
| 1-3pm TBC June 2022 | Social media |
| 1-3pm TBC July 2022 | Reflection on year |
| September 2022 | **Graduation of the 2021-22 cohort** (both tracks together) |

### Policy engagement track

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| Date | Theme |
| 1-2pm 2 November 2021 | Kick-off meetingfor the 2021-22 cohort of Engagement Excellence Fellows (both tracks together) |
| 12-2pm Tuesday 9 November 2021 | **Project planning meeting 1** |
| 12-2pm Tuesday 14 December 2021 | Training session\* |
| 12-2pm Tuesday 11 January 2022 | Training session |
| 12-2pm Tuesday 8 February 2022 | **Project planning meeting 2** |
| 12- 2pm Tuesday 8 March 2022 | Training session |
| 12-2pm Tuesday 12 April 2022 | Training session |
| 12-2pm Tuesday 10 May 2022 | **Project planning meeting 3** |
| 12-2pm Tuesday 14 June 2022 | Training session |
| 12-2pm TBC July 2022 | Reflection on year |
| September 2022 | **Graduation of the 2021-22 cohort** (both tracks together) |

\* Indicative training topics include treading the line between academia and politics, policy writing, rapid evidence synthesis, evaluating policy impact, or engaging with e.g. councils or Parliament.