

**THE MANCHESTER ESRC FESTIVAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE 2021**

**Festival applicant guidelines**

Please read these guidelines before applying for your event to be included in the Manchester ESRC Festival of Social Science.

**Introduction**

The Festival of Social Science offers an opportunity for researchers to hold events aimed at **non-academic audiences, specifically members of the public and/or young people**. Events which are aimed primarily at academic audiences are not eligible to be part of the Festival or to receive sponsorship.

The Festival of Social Science 2021 will take place from **1** to **30 November**, and applications for sponsorship of **up to £500** can be made to assist with events to be held at any point during November. This year’s Festival will tie in with **COP-26** (which runs 1-12 November) for applicants that wish to co-brand pre-planned COP-26 events. As such, the main theme of the Festival of Social Science this year will look at the wider issues relating to **Environment** and **Climate Change**. Please note that, although this is the overarching theme, this does not preclude applications on different topics, providing that they include a social science element.

**Purpose of the Festival**

The Festival of Social Science is designed to promote and increase awareness of social sciences and the ESRC's research, enable social scientists to engage with non-academics and increase awareness of the contributions the social sciences make to the wellbeing and the economy of the UK society.

**Aims of the Festival**

* UK-wide festival celebrating the breadth of social science disciplines
* A core theme around and scheduled to tie in with COP26
* Aimed at public audiences and young people
* At least 40% of FoSS events overall to be on an environment theme
	+ Topics selected to be of interest to public audiences/young people
	+ Environment theme can include non-climate-change topics (eg relationship between wellbeing and green spaces)
	+ Focus where possible on inspiring action (eg what can be done to improve our environment and reduce climate change)
	+ Include where possible individual or local changes that can make a difference with respect to climate change, or relatable stories about individuals and climate change from around the world
* Strong economics/social science element but with potential to include events led by or run in collaboration with researchers from other disciplines.
* No more than 60% of FoSS events to be on other economics/social science topics of interest to public audiences/young people
* A strong web and social media presence highlighting ESRC’s and economic/social science insights.

Each year we measure if the aims have been met through the evaluation of the Festival against a series of objectives. More broadly, the Festival of Social Science objectives are to:

* encourage, support and create opportunities for social science researchers to engage with public and young people audiences
* promote and increase awareness of the social sciences and ESRC-funded research
* promote and increase awareness of the contribution social science makes to the wellbeing and the economy of society in the UK
* enable the public to engage with social science research
* engage with teachers and young people and to raise their awareness of the social sciences.

**Applying for sponsorship**

Events must:

* Be held during the ESRC Festival of Social Science month in 2021 (**1-30 November**)
* Fit with the aims and objectives of the Festival
* Feature social science (ideally with a social scientist involved in the event)
* Where possible be linked in with the overarching theme of ‘Environment’
* Be free to attend
* Be aimed at the general public and/or young people.

Visit <http://www.esrcmanchesterfest.ac.uk/> for information on events funded in 2020. Examples of previous events include:

* Film screenings
* Virtual activities
* Hands on activities
* Debates
* Outdoor events
* Seminars
* Workshops
* Exhibitions

Applicants can apply for **up to £500 of ESRC sponsorship funding**. Applications are welcome from all staff and PhD students at the University of Salford. Cross-School participation is encouraged.

PhD student applicants must name as a co-applicant on the application form a member of staff who has agreed to provide advice and assistance where necessary, and to take formal responsibility for the event (including managing the finances, any health and safety requirements, etc.). The co-applicant may, but need not, be your supervisor.

Applicants are welcome to apply for sponsorship for more than one event although a separate application form must be submitted for each event.

You are advised to look at the Festival website for further details (<https://esrc.ukri.org/public-engagement/festival-of-social-science/about-the-festival/>).

Applications will be judged against the following criteria:

* Consistency with the Festival's strategic objectives and aims
* Awareness of public concerns and a topical relevancy
* Targeting of specific audiences, particularly the public and young people
* Innovative and interactive events
* Realistic costing estimates and value for money
* The event must fall within the Festival month

**Costs**

* You may apply for up to £500 (inclusive of VAT)
* Costs must be non-FEC
* The following costs are also not supported:
* Staff costs
* Travel/accommodation costs for speakers/participants
* Alcohol, food and beverages
* Goody bags or giveaways

**How to apply**

The application form is available from Emma Sutton (research-impact@salford.ac.uk).

Your application must be submitted to research-impact@salford.ac.uk **by 4pm on Friday 30 July**.