**Museums and University public engagement programme (MUPEP)**

Do you want to reach and engage a wider audience with your research? Do you want training form experts in the museum sector who do this on a daily basis? Do you want to develop an activity based around your research area? Then the following opportunity maybe for you.

Evidence from the RCUK Public Insight report 2017 and our own research suggests that the public is much more likely to visit a museum than a University, and that researchers from the University would value the opportunity to work in a museum environment to engage with the public.

**Aims of the programme**

* To allow researchers to engage with public audiences by either i) gaining experience in working with the public, ii) developing and delivering dissemination activities to support researchers work or iii) recruiting an audience to allow co-design and production of a research project.
* To appropriately evaluate the activities delivered and report these back to the university, museum and funding body.
* To work in a coordinated way with the University public engagement (PE) team and the museum sector to aid training of researchers in dissemination, co design and production with the public audiences that museums attract.

**Expectations of the researchers**

Researchers arrange an initial meeting with a member of the University PE team to discuss their expectations and experiences of working with the public.

Researchers are asked to commit a predefined amount of time during their project for developing, delivering and evaluating appropriate engagement activities as discussed with a member of the PE team, who will liaise with the museum.

Dependent on previous experience, this activity can be one of several options:

1. The museum would provide an ‘off the shelf’ option for those with no or little experience in PE, where they could join their voluntary team. The engagement is already prepared, training will be delivered and the aim is that the researcher gains experience in how to engage members of the public in a museum environment.
2. A researcher could develop a short add on activity to an existing activity on going at the museum that could directly link to their research. This would need to be developed to reach a specific audience with which the museum currently interact with. Guidance would be given by the university PE team and guidance about the expectations of the chosen audience would be given by the museum.
3. A researcher could develop an activity/workshop/exhibit independently and run it at the museum as long as it has a clear focus as to the audience in which it will attract and the timing is mutually convenient for all parties. This can be discussed with the University PE team in consultation with the museum whilst in the developmental phase.

A mix of several of these options would also be possible.

**Evaluation**

An evaluation strategy will be developed and quantitative and qualitative outcomes reported back to the PE team and the museum. This data would also be important to report back to funding bodies such as CRUK, Wellcome Trust, RCUK, NIHR etc.

**Funding**

Time of the researcher for preparation and delivery is expected to come from their research grant. If funding is required for consumables/materials for running an activity, there may be some limited funds available, but use of existing resources in the museum will be encouraged. Funding costs will be considered on a case by case basis. For larger sums of funding, the PE team can suggest places/schemes to apply to externally.

**Deadline**

This is an open call, but please expect that in order to establish appropriate engagement activities for your research, it may take some time to enter discussions with the appropriate museum and link in with their current programming of events.

**Contacts**

The University public engagement team in the first instance.

peteam@leeds.ac.uk

Dr Alexa Ruppertsberg, Head of Public Engagement with Research, University of Leeds, 0113 3431149