



The LONDON
ARTS & HUMANITIES
PARTNERSHIP

STUDENT BRIEFING:

LAHP PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TRAINING AND COMPETITION

Briefing for LAHP's new Public Engagement training and competition launched in March 2022 for 2nd and 3rd year (full-time or part-time equivalent) students.

Rationale:

1. Public engagement (PE) now stand at the heart of UKRI thinking and is a central policy plank for all research councils, including as a pathway to impact – but can be an unfamiliar topic, marginal concern or peripheral idea for PGRs who are unfamiliar with it.
2. PGRs who do not yet understand the potential of their work to reach wider audiences miss opportunities to develop core skills in PE during their period of doctoral research. This not only negatively affects their understanding of the impact agenda and how it informs both research policy and UKRI post PhD funding streams, but also overlooks how PE can itself be integrated as part of a research methodology and lead to further insights, outputs, and interdisciplinary collaborations and funding opportunities.
3. This suite of training in PE and impact aims to ensure that LAHP'S PGRs in their second and third years have an opportunity to acquire a fundamental understanding of PE as an activity that should be embedded in and through their approach to dissemination, collaboration and impact and/or be centrally placed within their research as a methodology.
4. This training is not only important to them as current doctoral candidates, but also going forward as ECRs moving beyond the PhD into employment contexts, whether HE or non-HE. This includes alt-ac careers (e.g., research careers beyond the academy), where research skills combined with a nuanced understanding of PE and the impact agenda can be effectively applied across a variety of industries and sectors.

Training Aims:

1. To understand PE and PE as a pathway to impact within an Arts and Humanities context and explore how individual researchers and can find different ways to connect with non-specialist audiences in and out of an institutional context.

2. To explore the practicalities of PE in a variety of formats - including face-to-face, online, and digital - and gain understanding of the skills needed for the practical side of organizing and running PE events, including basic event planning, presentation, and management.
3. To understand the needs of potential partners, what a successful collaboration looks like, and the responsibilities of researcher roles in an interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnership.
4. To gain understanding of the impact agenda and how impact can be assessed – and how the current and future funding environment for research is increasingly determined by an ability to engage a wide range of publics, partners and collaborators.
5. To explore ways in which effective and impactful PE can best address issues of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Training sessions:

Training will run from March until May in four phases: introductory sessions; practical projects; visits and student case studies; project feedback. The sessions will be led by specialists in research and public engagement, including Queen Mary's Centre for Public Engagement, and will involve three of LAHP's core non-HEI partners: the Museum of London, The National Archives and the V&A. At least 10% of places will be reserved for those not funded by LAHP and a number of places will be reserved for students from other AHRC DTPs.

LAHP's Impact, Engagement and Entrepreneurship Fund

LAHP students (2nd and 3rd year) can apply for up to £600 to support a PE project through the LAHP Impact, Engagement and Entrepreneurship Fund. See <https://www.lahp.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/LAHP-IEE-guidelines-2020-21.pdf>

The LAHP Public Engagement Competition

LAHP funded students are eligible to enter LAHP's Public Engagement Competition. Submissions should be for a PE project directly related to their primary research or in collaboration with other students around a mutual interest resonant with their research.

The submission can take one of the following forms:

- (1) Documentation or a sample of an individual piece of public engagement in relation to LAHP-funded research;
- (2) Documentation or a sample of a group/ collaborative project undertaken in response to the training sessions;
- (3) A detailed proposal of 3-5 pages for a planned public engagement project related to LAHP-funded research.

All submissions must also be accompanied by a **one-page project summary** that explains how the PE activity relates to and/or extends your research; which particular audience you wanted to reach and why; and what impacts you anticipate it having.

Submissions will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Clarity of the project, including aims and outcomes
- Link to current LAHP research
- Specificity of target audience, and how the project hopes to reach these groups
- Appropriateness of engagement method for aims and public
- Quality of evaluation plans.

The deadline is 5 May 2022 and the winner and runners-up will be announced at LAHP's Annual Research Day on 17 May 2022. The first prize will be £200 in book tokens, with two runner-up prizes of £50 in book tokens.