

Inclusive leadership for public engagement with research

A training and development programme for researchers working in fields aligned with the NERC portfolio

Unlock Your Leadership Potential: NERC Researcher Training Program

Are you a passionate Environmental Science researcher eager to make a real impact with your work? Are you considering how to embed diversity, equity and inclusion in your research and public engagement? Do you want to enhance your leadership skills and engage with the public effectively? Are you responsible for supporting others with public engagement? Would you like to be a more effective leader of public engagement with research?

If so, our exclusive NERC Researcher Training Program in Inclusive Leadership and Public Engagement is tailor-made for you!

About the programme

At the heart of effective environmental research lies the need for researchers who can bridge the gap between science and society. Our comprehensive program is designed to empower NERC researchers like you with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in inclusive leadership for public engagement.

In the context of public engagement, we often think about DEI in terms of engaging audiences and working with participants; however, this programme seeks to incorporate aspects of inclusive leadership and building inclusive teams within this landscape.

Key highlights:

- Inclusivity in Public Engagement practice:** Explore diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the context of public engagement with research. Develop strategies and practical methods to embed DEI in your practice.
- Inclusive influence and leadership:** Develop your communication, collaboration, and decision-making skills to drive impactful research and public engagement initiatives.
- Creating an inclusive research culture:** Learn the art of leading diverse teams and fostering an inclusive work environment.

The programme is delivered online across 12 weeks and will run from February 2024 to May 2024. There will be three main teaching blocks, plus an introductory workshop and a wrap-up workshop at the end of the programme. Each block will involve a two-hour participatory workshop, a one-hour

session with your mentor, and some self-directed time. We anticipate the entire programme will take around fourteen hours of contact time (e.g., workshops and mentoring) across the four-month period. We'd recommend allowing for an average of one and a half hours per week.

The programme is designed to accommodate your busy schedule. There will be ample opportunities to connect with fellow NERC researchers, guest speakers, and mentors who share your passion for environmental science and public engagement.

During the programme, you will have access to a specialist mentor. Our mentors bring a range of experience in strategic leadership of public engagement with research, including (i) developing and implementing a strategy; (ii) training researchers; (iii) participatory approaches; (iv) evaluation; and (v) DEI.

As part of the programme, you will also be invited to bring a live problem or project to work on. This will vary from person to person, but we invite you to consider specific challenges related to inclusive leadership that you will delve into during the training and share your progress and learning with your peers. For example, live problems or projects could vary from reviewing your approach to evaluation (embedding DEI), reflecting on how inclusive leadership of PER could inform your practice, through to developing a new funding proposal working with under-served audiences.

We hope to build a supportive network to boost your career and public engagement endeavours.

Key dates:

- Programme orientation:** 1st February, 10 am – 12 pm
- Inclusive public engagement practice:** 16th February, 2 pm – 4 pm
- Inclusive influence and leadership:** 6th March, 10 am – 12 pm
- Creating an inclusive research culture:** 18th April, 2 pm – 4 pm
- Programme close:** 16th May, 10 am – 12 pm

There will also be four 1-1 mentoring sessions to be arranged in and around the time of the workshops with your mentors. All sessions and workshops will be delivered online.

The **closing date for applications is the 14th of November, 2023**. Applicants will be notified of their place on the programme no later than the 8th of December 2023. A total number of 20 places is available.

The places will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- Personal goals align with the aims of the programme.
- Availability for workshop dates.
- Geographic spread of participants and institutions.
- A breadth of experience regarding DEI.

Eligibility criteria

- Those participating in the training do not need to be working on NERC-funded research but should be aligned to NERC's science remit.
- You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for NERC funding

How to apply

Follow this link to [sign up here](#).

Please contact David Owen (david@gurukula.co.uk) or Helen Featherstone (hf362@bath.ac.uk) for further information about the programme.

Other FAQs

Q: Is there a cost to participants/institutions?

A: No places are funded by the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC)

Q: Is the course in person or online?

A: The entire programme will be delivered online

Q: Are there limits to the number of applications per institution?

A: No limits per university or institution, but there are only 20 places on the programme, so we will factor in the spread of participating institutions when selecting people.

Meet the facilitators.

David Owen (he/him), Independent Consultant

David has over fifteen years of experience working with leadership teams in UK higher education institutions supporting embedding outreach and public engagement in strategy. David is an ILLM level 7 equivalent accredited coach with a wealth of facilitation, training and mentoring experience. Competent with both online and in-person delivery and blended learning, he has successfully

delivered continuing professional development courses, research and advocacy courses and an inclusion and diversity retreat for Vital Strategies.

Helen Featherstone (she/her), PhD, Independent Consultant and Head of Public Engagement at the University of Bath

Helen has been leading on Public Engagement in Higher Education since 2012 and has been working in the public engagement and science communication sector for over 20 years. Helen is known for her excellent training and professional development interventions – with participants particularly valuing the expertly facilitated opportunities to learn together, to bring new ideas to their practice, and to hear real-life examples drawn from Helen’s own experiences. Helen recently led the UKRI-Funded SEE-PER project: ChallengeCPD@Bath, which examined public engagement training and professional development for academics. Helen was involved with setting up the NCCPE’s Engage Academy and has been a mentor since its inception. She is also a mentor for public engagement leads in Wellcome-funded research centres.

Dr Dom Galliano (he\they), Independent Consultant

Dom Galliano is a freelance consultant working towards an open, transparent, and equitable research community. Dom works with academics, professional service staff, national funders, and other organisations to challenge the systems that inhibit culture change across the academic ecosystem. Dom brings over a decade of experience from leading successful (and not so successful) programmes, structures and projects from their previous roles, which include Head of Public Engagement at UCL, Director of Outreach and Public Engagement at the Southeast Physics Network and managing Physics in Society programme for the Institute of Physics. They are an experienced mentor, having worked with over thirty academics and engagement professionals to reflect on their careers and help them through problematic projects. They are also a keen advocate and activist helping support and improve the workplace for the LGBTQ+ community in STEM and has advised national STEM membership organisations on their LGBTQ+ programmes.

The mentors

The mentors we bring in will depend on the needs of the participants. Our mentors have extensive experience leading outreach and public engagement in universities. They are experts in: senior leadership for outreach and public engagement, culture change in universities, evaluation, high-quality public engagement and outreach, strategy development, and influencing upwards. They will help you understand your circumstances and identify effective approaches to leadership in your setting. The mentors will share their first-hand experiences, point you to relevant resources, and connect to others in the field whom you could benefit from speaking with.