Engage Festival 2020: Engagement, innovation and change

Call for contributions

We are really pleased that you would like to be involved with this year's Engage conference, which will be held online from **Monday 30th November – Friday 4th of December**.

The call for contributions will close on Monday 31st of August.

**Engage 2020** will explore these questions:

- What is the role of universities in our rapidly changing context? With Covid-19 changing the face of society, how can we reimagine the contribution universities can make? What is the role of public engagement in how universities respond?
- As we develop new approaches to engagement, how can we ensure that our work is inclusive, and appropriate to the interests and needs of those we work with? Are our emergent practices creating new barriers to engagement, and how can we respond to this?
- As we start the process of social, economic and cultural recovery, how can we work in partnership with others to generate and share knowledge together? How can we find ways to support engagement practice, in the face of reduced funding, and increased pressure on communities?

**Conference themes**

Covid 19 has highlighted the need for a highly principled approach to our engagement with society – without which we risk disconnection, fostering division and a breakdown in trust. We invite you to explore one or more of these principles in your contribution to the festival.

**Being trustworthy and ethical**

- We invite a conversation about what it means to be trusted in a rapidly evolving context; the skills and approaches needed to be ethical in knowledge creation and use; and how universities can build relationships that last.
Acting on inequality and inclusion

- As universities continue to tackle the lack of diversity within the academy, which currently impoverishes the sector, and reinforces inequality, we invite delegates to reflect on what the Black Lives Matter campaign has taught us about change – in our institutions, and in our engagement practice.

Working responsively

- As we navigate the current context, we want to explore how we can accelerate our responsiveness as a sector – our ability to adapt and change, and to listen to others to inform what we do. We want to showcase methodologies which best support participation and engagement, and which help generate powerful knowledge that makes a difference.

Demonstrating accountability

- We want to explore how far our current systems of accountability are fit for purpose, for instance in focusing our effectiveness in addressing inequality and racism – perhaps drawing from examples from outside higher education as we consider how to involve publics in meaningful ways, ensuring their views inform how universities do their work.

Being strategic

- Strategy involves seeing the wood for the trees – and being focused and committed in how we act. What does a strategic approach to engagement look like at a time of massive uncertainty and change?

Call for contributions

If you would like to contribute to one or more of the above themes, have innovative practices to share, tricky issues to explore, or would like to stimulate discussion, reflection and action, we invite you to share your ideas. Online working sessions could include the following formats:

- **Interactive workshops (up to 2 hours):** Host a workshop exploring the practice, principles or prospects of public engagement. Please make sure you tell us how you will ensure the session is tailored to the needs of delegates, and how you will use interactivity and the online platform to encourage participation.

- **Debates, panel discussions or webinars (1 hour):** Convene a 60 minute debate, panel discussion or webinar. Sessions will provide opportunities to hear a range of perspectives relating to the conference themes. We welcome creative approaches to managing these discussions and innovative use of the online platform.

- **Storytelling:** Storytelling is a powerful engagement tool, and we are keen to hear your tales. We invite you to create stories that will captivate and engage. Stories should be no more than 7 minutes and will be followed by Q&A. These sessions will bring together several story tellers to weave their magic.

- **A living library book:** Would you like to offer yourself to other delegates for a 20 minute chat? Let us know what your areas of interest are and we’ll pair you up with ‘readers’ throughout the festival.
- **A video showcase entry (up to 7 minutes):** Do you have a great story of practice to tell, or an interesting case study? Produce a short video and add it to our online showcase.

- **Contribution wildcard (up to 2 hours):** Do you have a great idea for a session, but it doesn’t fit the categories above? We want to encourage our contributors to pilot, develop and share new approaches to engaging in conference settings and invite you to use the wildcard option to contribute something really different.

### Using Online Platforms

Contributors are asked to specify which online platforms they plan to use for each session. The preferred platforms are:

- Blackboard Collaborate Ultra
- Microsoft Teams
- Zoom
- Skype

However, we are open to hearing how other online tools may be used to support your session. Please do use the Webform to outline your plans.

### Innovation grant

We are making some bursaries available to cover the cost implications of curating something really innovative. These are to enable contributors to push the boundaries of online engagement, explore other innovative ways of bringing people together, or to develop tools and methods to approach engagement in our current context. Examples of costs these grants may cover include investment in new online platforms; contributor time; and time to develop / pilot your approach.

If there are cost implications for your session that you'd like help to cover, please let us know below. If your contribution is selected to be part of the programme, we will contact you to discuss the support we can offer.

### Video overview

As part of your application, we will ask you to send us a short video (up to one minute) giving an overview of your session for potential participants. This will be used to promote your session both before and during Engage. This can be filmed (on a mobile is fine), an animation made in PowerPoint, or any other technique. Files must be below 2GB in size, and in the following formats: MP4, MOV, WMV or AVI. Please send this video to ncope.enquiries@uwe.ac.uk. Via [https://wetransfer.com/](https://wetransfer.com/) after submitting your application, including your name and the title of your session. Please note, we must have received your video by the closing date for your application to be considered.

### Submitting your application

Please complete the application form with details of the contribution you would like to make. You are welcome to submit up to **two workshop** contributions to the conference, as well as one contribution to each of the other categories - please ensure that you submit separate forms for each one. You can be named as an additional contributor in as many submissions as applies.
The application form cannot be saved and returned to at a later date, and cannot be retrieved in the event of an internet connection error or timeout, so please prepare your words in a separate document. Applications close on Monday 31st of August at 10pm. We will be in contact by the end of September to confirm next steps.

Thank you for your interest in Engage 2020. If you have any queries please contact nccpe.enquiries@uwe.ac.uk.

Please note, by filling in this application form you are committing to being able to deliver the workshop at Engage 2020 as outlined in your application. If successful, we will use the wording in your application to market your session, so please ensure this is correct and accurate before submitting.

Application form: https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/engage-2020-call-contributions