

Physics Access and Engagement Framework

Oxford Physics' engagement activities are delivered through four coordinated programmes, reaching over 200,000 people in the last five years. A summary of the different programmes is given below. The first three programmes target external school and public audiences and the fourth programme supports researchers in their public engagement with research activities. The programmes are overseen by the Outreach Programmes Manager (Dr Sian Tedaldi, 1 FTE).

Programme	Commitment	Target audience	Objectives	Strategies	Key projects / events
<p>Increasing access to Oxford Physics</p> <p>Key staff: Led by Physics Access Officer, 0.5FTE (Dr Kathryn Boast)</p>	To attract applications from all individuals with the potential to benefit from undergraduate study at the University of Oxford.	GCSE and A-level students, and their teachers, from socio-economically and/or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To raise awareness of application requirements and undergraduate courses at Oxford Physics. - To increase students' interest in pursuing Physics at Oxford - To increase the number of targeted applicants to study Physics at Oxford. - To develop problem-solving skills and confidence which are essential for making competitive applications to Oxford Physics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To work in line with the University of Oxford's Access and Participation Plan. - To work in collaboration with access staff from across the University to deliver high-quality and large-scale events and projects. - To provide opportunities for the work to be supported by the Undergraduate Physics Ambassador scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year 10 and Year 12 Taster Days - UNIQ Summer School - Preparing for the PAT - Year 12 Physics Summer School - The British Physics Olympiad - MPLS access events - Academic taster sessions for college access events
<p>Widening Participation in STEM</p> <p>Key staff: Supported by Outreach Project Officer, 1FTE (Lena Shams)</p>	To increase diversity within STEM by helping to improve students' attitudes and aspirations to study and work in Physics.	Children, and their teachers, in local upper primary and lower secondary school education from backgrounds that are underrepresented within STEM. This includes children from schools in Oxford with the lowest participation rates to higher education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To stimulate interest, enjoyment and learning in physics. - To help students learn or understand better topics covered in the curriculum. - To communicate to young people, before they make choices about further education, the key messages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anyone can do physics. 2. Physics is exciting, relevant & important; it goes beyond the classroom. 3. Studying physics further broadens career possibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To work in line with SEPnet's Schools Outreach strategy. - To work in partnership with target schools to create tailored activities. - To provide a suite of interventions that allow sustained contact with students to achieve maximum impact. - To enrich the school curriculum with links to our research. - To provide opportunities for the work to be supported by postgraduate students in the Department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physics Foundations - targeted primary school enrichment - Activities aimed at girls e.g. Marie Curious - Oxford Ogden Schools Partnership - Connect Physics - Activities that create awareness of careers in physics

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<p>Engaging local communities with physics</p> <p>Key staff: Supported by Outreach Project Officer, 1FTE (Lena Shams)</p>	<p>To enhance the life of the region by engaging local communities with Oxford Physics research.</p>	<p>Local community groups from backgrounds that are underrepresented within STEM, including families of children targeted through the 'Widening participation in STEM' programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To stimulate interest, enjoyment and learning in physics. - To increase the diversity of publics that engage with the department. - To encourage further discussion and participation with STEM and the University. - To help strengthen young people's interest in physics outside of school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop strong and constructive relationships with community groups. - To provide opportunities for participants to take part in further STEM-related activities. 	<p>Stargazing+, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPACE and YOU - Space is the Place - Out of this World
<p>Supporting Public Engagement with Research (PER)</p> <p>Key staff: Supported by Physics Engagement Officer (grant funded, temporary)</p>	<p>To create a culture where high-quality public engagement is embedded.</p>	<p>Oxford Physics researchers (students and staff) at all levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To raise awareness of the value of PER. - To develop confidence and skills in developing, delivering and evaluating high-quality PER for a wide variety of publics. - To increase the number of researchers who undergo PER that inspires, consults and collaborates with the public. - To help increase the quality and impact of PER in the Department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To work in line with Oxford's strategic plan for Public Engagement with Research - To provide support and expertise for researchers in their PER activities. - To support PER which enables school students to engage with and carry out current physics research. - To build capacity for PER, for example, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing networks, events and platforms and that allow all researchers to become involved with PER. ▪ Providing training and support that complements the University's existing provision. ▪ Supporting the inclusion of PER within RCUK Pathways to Impact and other funding schemes. ▪ Facilitating strategic discussion at a sub-departmental and research group level. ▪ Supporting the delivery of high-quality case studies for REF and other assessments. ▪ Celebrating the achievements of departmental PER. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach Development Day - Outreach Project Fund - CMP PE Grad course - Online resources - Events/programmes that showcase Oxford Physics research (Stargazing Oxford, Lab to Life, IOP lectures and Speakers for Schools)