

Our new Public & Community Engagement newsletter is here!



Daniel Williamson
Staff

Here at Salford, we aspire to be an *engaged* university, with an embedded commitment to public engagement in our institutional strategy and mission to ensure staff and students alike have a shared understanding of the purpose, value, meaning and role of public engagement.

An 'engaged' university is one that does not treat public engagement as an 'add on' or fringe activity. It embeds public engagement into the way it approaches its work. Typically, engaged universities will have activities in place which incorporate public engagement into their research, knowledge exchange, teaching, and social responsibility.

This is a description used by The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) – an independent body which seeks to inspire and support the UK higher education sector in engaging with the public.

Public and Community Engagement Officer now in post



Dan Williamson - Public and Community Engagement Officer

To support our journey to becoming an engaged university, a new role has been created within the Research and Enterprise team. Dan Williamson joined in late November 2022 to take on this role and will be a central point of contact for the coordination of public engagement activities and events led by our four Schools.

He will provide input into the design of public events taking place both on and off campus and will support with project management to coordinate their delivery. He will support the work of the university's Engagement Forum and will launch a new Community of Practice later this year. This work will support academic staff to record information and evaluate activity relating to their public engagement events so that accurate data can be returned to the annual Higher Education-Business and Community Interaction (HE-BCI) survey as well as supporting Salford's REF and KEF submissions.

His background is in the arts and culture sector where he has experience of production and project management of socially engaged arts projects for community festivals, galleries, and museums. He is also a founder member of [Friends of Stretford Public Hall](#) a community project in his local town that brought this beautiful Grade II listed building into community ownership to become a multipurpose venue with the aim 'of making good things happen in Stretford'.

He is currently meeting new colleagues from across the university who work in engagement and building up a bigger picture of the work happening across Salford.

*Please **email** Dan to say hi and discuss your ideas or questions around public engagement*

Cross-University Engagement Forum



In September 2021 we set up the University's first-ever Engagement Forum. The Forum is chaired by Professor Andy Miah, Chair in Science Communication & Future Media, and acts as an advisory and consultative group at key stages of the design, development, and delivery of a wide range of engagement activities, encompassing research, teaching, industry collaboration and enterprise. It is informed by University values around widening participation, corporate social responsibility, public involvement and communication and has a broad membership, with colleagues from R&E and MRER as well as School Associate

Deans. It meets every quarter bringing together colleagues working in engagement from across the university.

Community of Practice for Engagement



To develop more conversations and cross school connections around engagement, we will be setting up a community of practice, drawing participants and speakers from within the University initially and growing to include external organisations later.

A Community of Practice (CoP) is a community of people that have a shared interest. In this case working in public engagement. Through connecting, sharing knowledge and experiences, the group learn from each other to develop their skills and knowledge to develop their practice and make it more effective.

These sessions will begin in April initially on Teams and may move to hybrid model as it develops. We are keen here from you to help us shape the sessions to be as useful as possible.

Please do fill out [our quick questionnaire](#) to give us your thoughts.

Research Impact & Public Engagement Funding available



Apply now for up to £5K in funding to support research impact for an existing project, research development or research dissemination and public engagement activities. Full details available here: [Research Impact & Public Engagement Fund \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

- ✓ Recent Activity
- ✓ Coming Soon

And finally...we are keen to support, enhance and promote all the great public engagement happening across the University, so please do get in touch about your up and coming activities.