

Additional information for artists

Background to Edinburgh Science

Inspiring curiosity since 1989

Edinburgh Science Foundation is an educational charity. We are best known for organising Edinburgh's annual Science Festival as well as our science education outreach programmes, Generation Science and Careers Hive and our community engagement work.

Our mission is to inspire, encourage and challenge people of all ages and backgrounds to explore and understand the world around them. As leaders in our field of Science Communication, we work year-round to create and deliver dynamic hands-on workshops and exhibitions and inspirational shows, discussions, debates and performances that continually push the boundaries of public engagement with science. Communication and engagement is at the core of all our work and we strive to ensure that this is embedded in all aspects of our organisation.

The Edinburgh Science Festival began 35 years ago as the world's first public celebration of science and technology as a Festival, and continues to take place annually over the Easter holidays.

Celebrating the wonders of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), the Festival programme includes explosive shows and hands-on activities for families and engaging talks and immersive experiences for adults.

Theme of the 2026 Edinburgh Science Festival

Edinburgh Science Festival 2026: Going Global

Going Global is our call to open up science – to create a future that is healthier, fairer and sustainable for all, we must collaborate across cultures, disciplines, and countries.

Science today must not be confined by borders. The most urgent challenges of our time – such as climate change, healthcare, biodiversity loss, inequality and technological disruption, – demand not only global cooperation, but public understanding, imagination and action.

We can't solve these issues with science alone. We need powerful, inclusive science communication that connects people with knowledge, builds trust with industry, empowers communities and inspires collective solutions.

This is where the **Edinburgh Science Festival** comes in.

As a global leader in informal science engagement, we bridge the gap between research, industry and society, bringing together scientists, artists, engineers, educators and citizens to explore science not as an abstract idea but as a tool for a better world.

Audience breakdown

Edinburgh Science Festival attracts a wide audience with events catering to adults, teens, families and young people.

The Festival is held over the Scottish school Easter holidays. This leads to there being a large family audience at the National Museum of Scotland during the run. The Grand Gallery content is also part of our free offering during the festival increasing the popularity for families.