

EDI  
NBU  
RGH

# SCIENCE FESTIVAL

## 2026 CALL FOR IDEAS



## About the Festival

Edinburgh Science is an educational charity dedicated to making science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) accessible, memorable and empowering for everyone.

We do this through the Edinburgh Science Festival – started in 1989 as the world’s first public celebration of science – and our year-round schools and community outreach projects.

## Festival Mission

As a charity, the Edinburgh Science Festival’s four core strategic objectives are:

- To increase the science capital\* of our audiences
- To champion accessible and equitable participation in science, particularly with underserved audiences
- To foster public dialogue and engagement, highlighting the global impact of science and creativity
- To celebrate the intersection of science, art and culture

Read more about our impact here: [edinburghscience.co.uk/our-impact](https://edinburghscience.co.uk/our-impact)

\*Science capital is the sum of all science-related knowledge, attitudes, experiences and connections that an individual builds up through their lives. Research shows that the more science capital a person builds, the more likely they are to see themselves as a “science person” and continue with post-16 science.



We can deliver the Festival thanks to the generous support of our funders and sponsors. Find out more at [edinburghscience.co.uk/supporters](https://edinburghscience.co.uk/supporters)



# The 2025 Festival in numbers

## Programme

**117**  
EVENTS

**29**  
VENUES

**35**  
EVENT PRODUCERS

**87**  
CONTRIBUTORS

including **Prof Richard Dawkins**,  
**Dr Kathy Sullivan**, **Prof Johan Rockström**  
and **Patrick Grant**



## Audience



**110,000**  
VISITORS

**60%**  
FAMILIES

**40%**  
ADULTS

## Promotion

**1.6 MILLION**  
ORGANIC SOCIAL  
MEDIA REACH

**266**  
PRESS PIECES



**3 MILLION**  
MARKETING  
CAMPAIGN  
REACH

# Edinburgh Science Festival 2026

## Going Global

Science is more than knowledge – it's a shared pursuit that transcends borders, uniting people, ideas and discoveries in a global endeavour to create a future that's fairer, healthier and sustainable for all.

Exploring the theme *Going Global*, Edinburgh Science Festival 2026 will showcase the research and innovation created through international partnerships that address shared challenges, directly aligning with the UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs).

The Festival will amplify the voices, stories and contribution of underrepresented communities and regions while promoting equitable access to science and technology. It will also highlight Scotland's role in driving global scientific advances through research, innovation and its extraordinary people.

## What we're looking for

### If you require a venue

We are particularly interested in event submissions in the following categories to programme in Festival venues:

- **Talks & discussions** – fascinating conversations for adults and young people aged 12+
- **Family shows** – engaging entertainment for children and families that can be run in a raked theatre-style setting
- **Interactive shows for adults** – events for adults that bring science to life with live science elements
- **Digital** – high-quality, immersive digital experiences and resources that can be shared with an online audience

We will consider all events outside these categories if they have a particular link to our Festival theme.

### If you have your own venue

We will consider all events submitted, with preference given to events that demonstrate a commitment to best-practice science communication, provide high-quality experiences and demonstrate a connection with our 2026 theme.

# Get involved

Anyone can submit a proposal to the Call for Ideas. We are always keen to hear from people with a fascinating concept to communicate, and new, exciting ways of doing it.

We have different partnership options available depending on what you want to get from your involvement – audience engagement, brand promotion or both.

## Audience engagement

We welcome between 110,000–180,000 people to the Festival each year, with a dedicated family and adult audience. If you're looking to list your event in our programme or contribute a speaker to an event, we can help you find your audience.

As part of our programme, you benefit from the following:

- Event listing on the Edinburgh Science Festival website (60,000 users) and brochure (45,000 copies)
- Marketing pack and assets to help promote your event
- Support from Festival staff
- Box Office services\*
- Event management staff, if using Festival venue
- General Festival marketing campaign (approx. 3 million reach)
- Festival PR coverage (approx. 410 million reach)



## Participation fees

**Independent Professional** – Talk to us about your fee

Individuals such as professional science communicators, artists and performers interested in bringing an experience to the Festival

**Publisher** – Fee waived

Publishers representing popular science authors can submit proposals for author talks with book signings

**Organisation with own venue** – £500 +VAT

Organisations with events that will be delivered in an external space

**Organisations without own venue** – £1,500 +VAT

Organisations with an event that requires a space in a Festival venue



# Brand promotion

Join us as a supporter and get your organisation's messaging in front of our enthusiastic and loyal audience. Whether you're looking to create a unique STEM engagement event or feature a case study in one of our high-footfall exhibitions, we can work together to tell your organisation's story.

As well as the benefits above, supporters also receive the following:

- Enhanced event promotion
- Support developing and enhancing your event from our expert programming team
- Branding on Edinburgh Science Festival website and event listing (60,000 users)
- Logo in Festival brochure (45,000 copies)
- Inclusion in Festival email newsletter (15,000 subscribers)
- Partnership post across Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook (36,000 followers)
- Logo on sponsor grid in key city centre locations
- Allocation of tickets to VIP events for staff and stakeholder engagement
- Bespoke marketing packaged, depending on sponsorship level

Packages start from £5,000 +VAT. Contact **Fiona Carr**, Head of Development at **Fiona.Carr@scifest.co.uk** to discuss how we can partner together.



\*For the convenience of our visitors, an allocation of tickets for every event listed in the programme must be available to book through the Edinburgh Science Festival website. Unless delivering an event in your own venue, all box office revenue is retained (and ticket prices determined) by Edinburgh Science Festival unless otherwise negotiated and stated in the Participation Agreement. For events delivered in external venues, a 20% administrative fee is retained from ticket revenue generated through the Festival box office. A minimum of 10 tickets or 20% total tickets available for the event, whichever is higher, must be allocated to be sold through the Festival box office.

# Timeline

<b>Monday 30 June</b>	Launch of Call for Ideas
<b>Sunday 21 September</b>	Deadline for submissions
<b>Late September</b>	Festival team reviews submissions
<b>Mid-October</b>	Event selection finalised and applicants are contacted
<b>November</b>	Collection of event information and contracts signed
<b>Friday 28 November</b>	Deadline for event information and copy
<b>Mid-January</b>	Brochure proofing and sign off
<b>Mid-February</b>	Programme launch and events on-sale (all events embargoed until this date)
<b>March</b>	Final confirmation of logistics
<b>Saturday 4–Sunday 19 April</b>	Edinburgh Science Festival 2026
<b>May</b>	Feedback forms sent out and wrap-up of financial agreements (where applicable)

Visit our website at [\*\*edinburghscience.co.uk/call-for-ideas\*\*](https://edinburghscience.co.uk/call-for-ideas) to submit your event proposal.

For more information on the Call for Ideas or event submission process, contact our programming team at [\*\*creativeteam@scifest.co.uk\*\*](mailto:creativeteam@scifest.co.uk)