

CO-PRODUCTION AWARDS APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Notes for guidance in completing the Co-production Awards application form

The Co-production Awards (Broadcast, Games and Film) are part of the Wellcome Trust's Engaging Science grants programme, which funds projects that explore biomedical science and its social contexts. The Co-production Awards support projects that:

- experiment in the way they tell science stories,
- are innovative in form or content,
- are aimed at a mass 'entertainment-seeking' audience.

The Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health. Allied to this is a commitment to develop and support activities that stimulate interest, learning and dialogue on biomedical research and the questions it raises for societies.

These guidance notes should be read by the key people involved in the application, including the head of the organisation or department in which the work will be undertaken.

For further information please contact:

Broadcast Awards

T +44 (0)20 7611 5757

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The scheme is only open to those working in the broadcast, games and film industries.

The Co-production Awards supports projects in TV, radio, games or film that engage (in whole or part) with biomedical science and its impact on our lives in an innovative, entertaining and accessible way. The Awards fund projects that take an original approach to their subject, experiment with ideas and have the ability to reach and entertain a large UK audience. Projects must demonstrate the potential to captivate and enthral the audience. They should be aimed at a large 'entertainment-seeking' rather than a 'science-seeking' audience.

Proposals must demonstrate the project's ability to reach a mass audience; this would normally be through a secured distribution platform. Successful will demonstrate a robust finance plan and true partnerships with the funders and distributors needed to drive quality and guarantee audience attention.

To be eligible, applicants must be based in the UK or the Republic of Ireland, although other members of the project team can be based overseas. The proposal must be aimed at a mainstream UK and/or Republic of Ireland audience in the first instance, but the subject matter can be international.

Projects must be scientifically sound - we look for scientific input either through a scientist taking on an advisory role or through direct collaboration.

Projects that are not eligible for Co-production Awards include film or games projects where the primary aim is education, health promotion or campaigning; arts projects for therapeutic purposes; or projects that do not touch upon an aspect of biomedical sciences or the history of medicine.

No employee or Governor of the Wellcome Trust may apply.

Applicants may submit more than one grant application to the Trust at any one time, provided the proposals are clearly identified as being different.

Resubmissions of the same project will not be accepted to any Engaging Science scheme unless the Lead Applicant has been invited to re-apply by the scheme's advisor in writing.

The Trust requires a proportional share of any financial benefits arising from any commercial exploitation. The Wellcome Trust will also expect certain rights and credits in return for their investment.

WHAT CAN BE APPLIED FOR?

The Co-production Awards are available up to **£40 000**, for a maximum of three years – and are only available to part-finance projects.

In exceptional circumstances, and by invitation only, the Wellcome Trust offers Co-production Awards up to **£300 000** – for projects that are outstanding in ambition and impact. Eligible projects must be co-produced in association with a broadcaster or other mass entertainment platform – where a clear distribution platform has been secured – and are primarily for applicants and teams that can provide evidence of an excellent track record in producing high-quality and original content that reaches mass audiences. The Co-production Award must only part finance the project, i.e. at least matching funding should already be secured for the project.

All Co-production Awards are subject to contract and terms may be negotiable.

Awards range from over £40,000 up to £300,000 (exclusive of VAT) for production costs. Applicants are encouraged to apply at a level appropriate for the impact of the project, and applications must **prove necessity and describe potential impact of Wellcome Trust funding** to the project (see ASSESSMENT CRITERIA below).

If you are looking for development funding for projects, please see our [Development Awards](#) for funding up to £10 000.

If your proposed application is for public engagement surrounding your project (e.g. film outreach through Q&A screenings), please see our [People Awards](#).

If your proposed project has a strong innovative artistic dimension, please see our [Arts Awards](#).

If you would like advice on the eligibility of your project or how to apply, please contact the Broadcast team for further information (well in advance of the advertised deadlines).

Costs requested can include:

- personnel costs directly related to the project
- direct activity and production costs including venue costs, equipment and materials
- project travel costs, including costs of travel to monitoring meeting and attendance at relevant UK conferences or film festivals
- project publicity costs
- project administration costs where this is not already covered by other funding.

What is not covered:

- full economic costs <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Policy-and-position-statements/WTX026852.htm>
- salary costs of staff who are already funded by their organisation
- core overheads of the applying organisation not related to the project, e.g. heating, rent
- expenses incurred in submitting an application (including attending interviews)
- academic courses or research such as Master's degrees or PhDs
- costs arising prior to the start date of the project.

HOW TO APPLY & SELECTION PROCESS

Co-production Awards (up to £40 000)

A full application form should be completed via [WT Grant Tracker](#), the Trust's online application system, and submitted at any time before the published deadline.

Receipt of your application will be acknowledged electronically within five working days of the deadline.

The decisions of the Wellcome Trust will be final. Every effort has been made to develop a thorough and informed assessment process. The Trust reserves the right not to enter into any correspondence about the assessment process and/or any subsequent monitoring procedures.

Co-production Awards (up to £300 000)

These awards are by invite-only. In the first instance, you must submit an expression of interest form via [WT Grant Tracker](#), the Trust's online application system. We would suggest that you discuss your project with a member of our [Broadcast Team](#) before submitting this form.

You are advised to read these guidelines prior to submitting your Expression of Interest form (and full application form, if applicable).

The decisions of the Wellcome Trust will be final. Every effort has been made to develop a thorough and informed assessment process. The Trust reserves the right not to enter into any correspondence about the assessment process and/or any subsequent monitoring procedures.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

All eligible projects will be assessed individually on merit and need by a Funding Committee. In particular, the following assessment criteria will be utilised:

- Originality and strength of the concept and approach;
- Potential to reach and engage a mass audience with the subject matter in an accessible way;
- Quality of approach to collaborating with expert advisors and how this will impact on the final outcome;
- Consideration of scientific subject matter and approach to science content (and its social context);
- Necessity and potential impact of Wellcome funding to the proposal;
- Project feasibility;
- Strength of project team and partners;
- Justification and appropriateness of the budget.