

1) FAQs (General)

My query is not answered in the FAQs

If you cannot find the answer to your query within the FAQs please email RCUK's Public Engagement with Research team at the following address: sis@rcuk.ac.uk

Why is the RinR scheme coming to an end?

Whilst the funders value the achievements of RinR over its 17 year history this specific scheme's model of delivery is no longer able to offer value for money in a changed landscape.

The recent STEM Careers Review noted that there are a number of valuable schemes that provide and train ambassadors to visit schools and colleges. The review made a number of recommendations, including the amalgamation of schemes with similar objectives, which are currently being explored. RCUK is keen to ensure that any new developments are inclusive of all disciplines funded by RCUK.

The scheme is being wound down over a six month period in order to achieve an orderly run down and to allow for an optimum number of placements to be completed. The scheme is closing to further applications now to ensure all efforts are focused on securing placements for current applicants and avoid unnecessary disappointment. The scheme will close completely on the 13 January 2012.

News ways of supporting researchers to connect with schools will be explored throughout 2011 to identify the most effective models of delivery.

2) FAQs (Researchers)

Do I need to do anything?

Please ensure your regional coordinator is up-to-date regarding whether you are pre-, mid-, or post-placement so they can update your records as appropriate.

Please see the FAQs below to determine whether you need to take any further action.

Suggested timetable for placements

The following table provides a summary of the key dates of which RinRs should be aware.

30 September 2011	Suggested final date for a match to have been secured.
31 October 2011	Suggested final date for training. The actual date will be sometime in this month and will depend upon training events organised by AEA in conjunction with The Training Group.

1 – 14 November 2011	Suggested final start date for placements
31 December 2011	Suggested final date for completion of placements.
31 December 2011	Final date for submission of T&S claims and evaluation forms to AEA Technology.
13 January 2012	Official closure of RinR programme and support.

I have recommended the scheme to a friend/colleague. Can they still apply?

Applications from schools and researchers are no longer being accepted. Please refer to the alternative options FAQ for suggestions on other public engagement with research opportunities they may wish to explore.

I have applied to the scheme but have not yet been matched with a school. Will my placement go ahead?

Your regional coordinator will be putting all their efforts into securing a suitable match for you. You can help them with this by ensuring you have been as flexible as possible with your subject area requests, dates and willingness to travel or by letting the regional coordinator know if you already have a school in mind. For example, many researchers go back to their own secondary school which speeds the matching process up significantly.

However, it may not be possible to secure a match for everyone. Ideally all matches will have been made by the end of September 2011. If a match for you has not been found by this date it is unlikely you will be able to participate in a placement so your regional coordinator will contact you to point out other options.

I have been matched but have not yet been trained. Will my placement go ahead?

If you have been matched your regional coordinator should have advised you a list of training dates. Please contact them immediately if you have not received this. Please ensure you book onto a training date as soon as possible and inform your regional coordinator if for any reason you are not able to attend so that your place can be given to someone else. The last training day will be held around the end of October 2011. If you have not been trained by this date it may not be possible to ensure your CRB check is processed in time for your placement to start and be successfully completed.

If a suitable date for your training can not be agreed before the end of October 2011, then you will be unable to take part in a placement and your regional coordinator will contact you point out other options.

I have been trained but I have not yet received my CRB from the local authority. Will this affect my placement?

The CRB process can take as little as two weeks or as long as 16 weeks. Neither AEA Technology nor RCUK have any control over the time it takes the Criminal Records Bureau to approve your CRB check and you cannot start your placement without one. When completing your CRB form it is vital that you do not omit any information and ensure all the details are accurate to prevent unnecessary delays. If you have lived at several different addresses crossing different local authorities in the past five years then your CRB check is likely to take longer.

All placements should aim to have started by no later than the beginning of November 2011. This is to allow sufficient time to complete the minimum 14 hours of student contact time required for your placement to be deemed a success. All placements should aim to have finished by the end of the autumn term in December 2011.

I have been trained and received my CRB check but I have not agreed a placement start date with my school. When must I start my placement by?

All placements should aim to have started by no later than the beginning of November 2011. This is to allow sufficient time to complete the minimum 14 hours of student contact time required for your placement to be deemed a success. All placements should aim to have finished by the end of the autumn term in December 2011.

We strongly advise that you aim to contact your placement school before the summer break starts (around the 22 July though some schools may break earlier/later) to agree a placement start date for the autumn term which commences around the beginning of September.

I have agreed a placement start date but it is later than the beginning of November 2011. Can I go ahead?

We strongly advise that you contact your school and try to arrange an earlier start date otherwise it may be difficult for you to complete the minimum 14 hours student contact time by the end of the autumn term in December 2011. If you are starting after the beginning of November please aim to have a clear plan in place for when your placement will be completed.

I have already started my placement. What must I do?

Please aim to ensure that you have completed your placement by the end of the autumn term in December 2011 and that all T&S claims along with your receipts are sent to Caroline Norris, Researchers in Residence, AEA, The Gemini Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QR by no later than the **31 December 2011.**

All completed evaluation forms and any placement diaries should be sent hard copy to the above address or preferably by email to info@researchersinresidence.ac.uk by no later than the **31 December 2011.**

Incomplete T&S forms or claims received after this date can not be processed by AEA Technology. After this date forms will need to be sent to RCUK PER, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1ET. RCUK will endeavour to process forms received after the 31 December as quickly as possible but payment may be delayed dependent on the number of forms received.

When must I have completed my placement by?

All placements should aim to finish by the end of the autumn term in December 2011. On completion of your placement please ensure all T&S claims along with your receipts are sent to Caroline Norris, Researchers in Residence, AEA, The Gemini Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QR by no later than the **31 December 2011**.

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Will my T&S be refunded?

Yes so long as completed T&S forms, receipts and completed evaluation forms are sent to Caroline Norris, Researchers in Residence, AEA, The Gemini Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QR by no later than the **31 December 2011** and any completed evaluation forms and placement diaries are sent hard copy to the above address or preferably by email to info@researchersinresidence.ac.uk by no later than the **31 December 2011**.

Incomplete forms or claims received after this date can not be processed by AEA Technology. After this date forms will need to be sent to RCUK PER, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1ET. RCUK will endeavour to process forms received after the 31 December as quickly as possible but payment may be delayed dependent on the number of forms received.

Will I still receive my RinR certificate?

Yes so long as completed T&S forms and receipts are sent to Caroline Norris, Researchers in Residence, AEA, The Gemini Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QR by no later than the **31 December 2011** and all completed evaluation forms and any placement diaries are sent hard copy to the above address or preferably by email to info@researchersinresidence.ac.uk by no later than the **31 December 2011**.

Failure to return all the correct documentation by this date may result in a delays. After this date forms will need to be sent to RCUK PER, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1ET. RCUK will endeavour to send out certificates after the 31 December as quickly as possible but delays may occur dependent on the number of forms received.

I have completed my RinR placement but my school would like me to return – can I?

RCUK is keen to encourage the development of long term relationships between universities and schools and if you would like to return to the school then please do so. However, the RinR scheme will not be able to provide any support for new placements going forward.

Does this mean that public engagement with schools no longer valued by RCUK?

Not at all. The closure of the RinR scheme is not as a result of a lack of commitment to inspiring young people or supporting researchers. This is demonstrated through the RCUK Public Engagement with Research Strategy, the recently published RCUK delivery plan and the continuation of other schools and young people activities funded by RCUK. The Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research is also a signal of RCUK and other research funders' support for public engagement. RCUK will continue to promote and support public engagement with research activities that can demonstrate both impact and value for money. RCUK feels that the money invested in RinR could do significantly more to support our researchers to engage with schools and the wider public in other ways and we are considering a number of options.

What will replace Researchers in Residence?

RCUK is in discussions with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) regarding the recommendations made by the STEM Careers Review. We are working to ensure new developments provide opportunities for researchers from every academic discipline supported by the seven Research Councils, not just those that are STEM based.

Inspiring young people and supporting researchers is still a part of our strategy therefore we hope to be able to bring new opportunities to our researchers in 2012 once all the options have been explored.

Money set aside for RinR will continue to be invested in inspiring young people and supporting our researchers to build strong links with schools.

I am still keen to work with a school – are there any other schemes out there for me?

National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE)

In the first instance we recommend you visit the website of the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) <http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk> which contains a list of current funding opportunities or speak to your university's outreach department. As well, RCUK support several schemes to enable researchers to engage with schools and the wider public. www.rcuk.ac.uk/per/pages/researchers

University Departments

Your department may have a schools liaison officer or your university may have a dedicated outreach department which should be able to offer you advice on public engagement opportunities available within your institution.

Beacons for Public Engagement - <http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/about/beacons>

If your institution is part of a Beacon for Public Engagement we recommend you contact them for advice on public engagement opportunities. There are six university-based collaborative centres, or Beacons, across the UK that are working to support, recognise, reward and build capacity for public engagement. The Beacons are at the forefront of efforts to change the culture in universities, assisting staff and students to engage with the public. Their partners include further education colleges, museums, galleries, businesses, charities, TV and press and public bodies.

Beacon North East

Web: www.beaconnortheast.co.uk

Tel: 0191 222 8171

Email: anna.wraith@ncl.ac.uk

CUE East – University of East Anglia (UEA)

Web: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/ssf/cue-east>

Tel: 01603 591561

Email: community@uea.ac.uk

Edinburgh Beltane Beacon

Web: <http://www.edinburghbeltane.net>

Tel: 0131 650 4874/4875

Email: info@edinburghbeltane.net

Manchester Beacon

Web: <http://www.manchesterbeacon.org>

Tel: 0161 275 5261

Email: beacon@manchester.ac.uk

Twitter: @mcrbeacon

UCL London Beacon

Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/public-engagement

Te: 020 7679 3530

Email: publicengagement@ucl.ac.uk

Wales Beacon

Web: <http://www.engagingwales.org>

Tel: 029 2087 6414

Email: beacon@cardiff.ac.uk

STEM Ambassadors - <http://www.stemnet.org.uk/content/stem-ambassadors>

If your subject is classed as a STEM subject then you will automatically have been registered as a STEM ambassador as well as a Researcher in Residence when your CRB check was conducted.

STEM Ambassadors are people from STEM backgrounds who volunteer as inspiring role models for young people. They can contribute both to regular lessons or participate in extra-curricular activities such as STEM Clubs, Careers Days and visits. STEM Ambassadors open the door to a whole new world for young people, helping them to see STEM subjects and careers with a fresh perspective and engage their interest and imagination in new ways. Each Ambassador is registered, trained and CRB checked.

Nuffield Science Bursaries <http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/project-hosts>

The Nuffield Schools and Colleges Bursaries offer bursaries to first year Advanced/Higher post-16 science students, helping students to take part in projects in universities, industry or research institutions during the summer holidays. The students work alongside practicing scientists and contribute to projects in research and development. Researchers can apply to provide a project and host a student, overseeing their work between four and six weeks during July and/or August.

CREST Mentors (British Science Association)

<http://www.britishecienceassociation.org/web/ccaf/CREST/crestformentors/Get+Involved.htm>

CREST mentors play a vital role in developing tomorrow's talent, helping students with their CREST projects while gaining hands on management experience and engaging with their local community.

CREST mentors can visit schools, helping students with their projects or the student can spend time working along side the mentor, learning how to use equipment and about experimental practice.

Individual Research Council programmes

AHRC: Please contact Jake Gilmore, AHRC Communications Manager on j.gilmore@ahrc.ac.uk or 01793 41 6021 to discuss the latest opportunities.

BBSRC: Please contact Tristan Bunn, BBSRC's Inspiring Young Scientists Co-ordinator on schools@bbsrc.ac.uk or 01603 255017 to discuss the latest opportunities.

BBSRC School Regional Champions <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/society/schools/school-regional-champions.aspx> BBSRC Schools Regional Champions (SRCs) support BBSRC researchers in the UK with public engagement activities for secondary schools and young people aged between 11 – 19. A network of SRCs develop and share best practice, tools and activities to aid the support for these researchers. SRCs receive £800 per annum for public engagement activities and can also apply for additional project funding and travel expenses to attend an annual meeting.

BBSRC Institutes: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/society/schools/institute-activities.aspx> All the institutes that receive BBSRC strategic funding support scientist-schools links, enabling teachers and school students to meet scientists and complement classroom science with experiences of cutting edge research.

ESRC: Please contact Melanie Knetsch, ESRC Deputy Head of Communications on melanie.knetsch@esrc.ac.uk or 01793 413049 to discuss the latest opportunities.

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/collaboration/public-engagement>

ESRC Festival of Social Science: <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/festival/about.aspx>
Researchers can hold an event at this festival which offers a fascinating insight into some of the country's leading social science research and how it influences our social, economic and political lives – both now and in the future.

Debating Matters: <http://www.debatingmatters.com> A UK-wide schools debate competition. The Central and North West and Wales regions of this schools debates competition are funded by ESRC. Opportunities exist for researchers to be involved.

Social Science for Schools: If you believe your research would be of value to a school teacher, ESRC are interested in discussing with you the best way of presenting this via www.socialscienceforschools.org.uk

EPSRC: Please contact Kate Miller, EPSRC on katherine.miller@epsrc.ac.uk or 01793 444196 to discuss the latest opportunities.

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk>

Holmes Hines Memorial Fund: <http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/pe/Pages/holmeshines.aspx>
Small funds available to help individuals with activities related to science and engineering including covering the expenses of visits by researchers to schools.

MRC: Please contact Jude Eades, Regional Communications Manager, MRC on j.eades@har.mrc.ac.uk or 01235 841291 for the latest opportunities.

<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Sciencesociety/Publicengagement/index.htm>

NERC: Please contact Poppy Leeder, NERC Communications team on fvl@nerc.ac.uk or 01793 411974 to discuss your ideas and potential opportunities.

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/press/mediatraining.asp> - This free two-day course for NERC-funded researchers runs throughout the year and provides training in how to engage the public with your research, write clearly and work effectively with the media.

STFC: Please contact Neville Hollingworth STFC Science and Society team on Neville.hollingworth@stfc.ac.uk or 01793 442175

<http://www.stfc.ac.uk/Funding+and+Grants/571.aspx>

Large and Small Awards – offer the opportunity of up to £100,000 for projects in Public Engagement relating to STFC science and technology.

Science in Society fellowships – ambassadors and champions for STFC's science, technology, engineering and mathematics work to schools, the media or public audiences.

3) FAQs (Schools and Teachers)

Do I need to do anything?

Please contact your regional coordinator to let them know whether your researcher is pre-, mid- or post placement if you have not already done so in order for them to update their records as appropriate.

Please see the FAQs below to determine whether you need to take any further action.

I have recommended the scheme to a friend/colleague. Can they still apply?

Applications from schools and researchers are no longer being accepted. Please refer to the alternative options FAQ for suggestions on other opportunities they may wish to explore.

I have applied to the scheme but have not yet been matched with a researcher. Will I still get a RinR placement?

Your regional coordinator will be putting all their efforts into securing a suitable match for you. You can help them with this by ensuring you have been as flexible as possible with your subject area requests and dates.

However, it may not be possible to secure a match for everyone. If a match for you has not been found by the end of September 2011 then it is unlikely that a placement will be possible so your regional coordinator will contact you to point out other options.

A suitable match has been found but I have not agreed a placement start date with my researcher. When must the placement start by?

All placements should aim to have started by the autumn term of 2011 and ideally by no later than the beginning of November 2011. This is to allow sufficient time for the researcher to complete the minimum 14 hours of student contact time required for their placement to be deemed a success. All placements should aim to have finished by the end of the autumn term in December 2011.

We strongly advise that you contact your researcher before the end of the summer term in July to agree a placement start date for the autumn term in September 2011 and inform your regional coordinator of the agreed start date.

I have agreed a placement start date but it is later than the beginning of November 2011. Can I go ahead?

We strongly advise that you contact your researcher and try to arrange an earlier start date otherwise it will be very difficult for them to complete the minimum 14 hours student contact time by the 31 December 2011. If it is not possible to start the placement sooner please try to have a clear plan of when the placement will be completed by,

My placement researcher has already started. What must I do?

Please try to ensure that your researcher has completed their placement by the 31 December and that you have also provided them or AEA Technology with your completed evaluation forms by this date.

When must the placement be completed by?

All placements should aim to have finished by the 31 December. On completion of your placement please ensure all completed evaluation forms are sent to Caroline Norris, Researchers in Residence, AEA, The Gemini Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QR or preferably by email to info@researchersinresidence.ac.uk by no later than the **31 December 2011**.

After this date forms will need to be sent to RCUK PER, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1ET. Forms received after the 31 December may not form part of the final evaluation.

I have completed a RinR placement and would like the same one to return - can they?

RCUK is keen to encourage the development of long term relationships between universities and schools and if you would like your RinR to return to the school then please do arrange for them to do so. However, the RinR scheme will no longer be able to provide any support for new placements.

Does this mean that public engagement with schools no longer valued by RCUK?

Not at all. The closure of the RinR scheme is not as a result of a lack of commitment to inspiring young people or supporting researchers. This is demonstrated through the RCUK Public Engagement with Research Strategy, the recently published RCUK delivery plan and the continuation of other schools and young people activities funded by RCUK. The Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research is also a signal of RCUK and other research funders' support for public engagement. RCUK will continue to promote and support public engagement with research activities that can demonstrate both impact and value for money. RCUK feels that the money invested in RinR could do significantly more to support our researchers to engage with schools and the wider public in other ways and we are considering a number of options.

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As well RCUK supports several schemes to enable schools to engage with universities and researchers. www.rcuk.ac.uk/per/pages/schools

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Beacons local to you should be able to help with requests for researchers or visits to universities.

Beacon North East

Web: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/beacon>

Tel: 0191 222 8312

Email: beacon@ncl.ac.uk

CUE East – University of East Anglia (UEA)

Web: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/ssf/cue-east>

Tel: 01603 591561

Email: community@uea.ac.uk

Edinburgh Beltane Beacon

Web: <http://www.edinburghbeltane.net>

Tel: 0131 650 4874/4875

Email: info@edinburghbeltane.net

Manchester Beacon

Web: <http://www.manchesterbeacon.org>

Email: beacon@manchester.ac.uk

UCL London Beacon

Email: publicengagemen@ucl.ac.uk

Wales Beacon

Web: <http://www.engagingwales.org>

Tel: 029 2087 6414

Email: beacon@cardiff.ac.uk

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CREST mentors play a vital role in developing tomorrow's talent, helping students with their CREST projects while gaining hands on management experience and engaging with their local community.

CREST mentors can visit schools, helping students with their projects or the student can spend time working along side the mentor, learning how to use equipment and about experimental practice.

Schoolscience.co.uk

www.schoolscience.co.uk hosts all of the Research Councils online schools resources and is hosted by the association for Science Education (ASE).

Socialscienceforschools.org.uk

Social Science resources can be found at: www.socialscienceforschools.org.uk