

Engage

Teacher Conference

SESSION SUMMARY

Application Tips for Kick Start and Engage Grants

A brief summary of what makes a strong grant application for grant funding for schools: how to present your plans effectively and understand BSA priorities.

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[Watch the recording](#)

[See the full slides](#)

What are the grants?

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Kick Start Grants

- Funding for schools to organise an activity or event during British Science Week; **aiming to engage children who might not otherwise participate in science.**
- Apply in Autumn (1 grant round/year)



Engage Grants

- Funding for schools to do CREST Awards **with students who are underrepresented in STEM.**
- Apply in Autumn and Spring (2 grant rounds/year)



Tip 1 - Ensure you are eligible to apply

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A UK school, college, or OFSTED-registered nursery/preschool that is

- not academically selective
- non-fee-paying*

The school meets at minimum of one of these criteria:

- At least 30% of pupils eligible for FSM, Pupil Premium, or equivalent
- At least 30% of pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds
- The school is in a designated rural location

Participating students will be aged 3–19 years

*except for Independent Special Schools that receive local authority funding



Tip 2 - Clearly demonstrate how you meet the selection criteria - respond to the BSA priorities

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1. Engage children who are underrepresented in science and those who might not normally choose to participate in STEM
2. Support children to take the lead
3. Challenge stereotypes about science
4. Link activities to children's everyday life beyond school
5. Raise awareness of the diverse range of careers that studying STEM can lead to
6. Activities that are cross-curricular and involve teachers, professionals or organisations outside STEM (and ideally; the wider community)

'we will ensure that a minimum of 50% of the STEM Ambassadors/visitors we invite in to speak will be women, and aim to reflect the variety of ethnic backgrounds we have in our school'

'Staff will identify pupils who they feel will benefit from joining STEM club, phone calls will be made home for these pupils, so parents are informed about the club and can encourage their child to attend'

'Our children still have the view of science being 'old, grey-haired men' and 'people in lab coats'...we would like to challenge these stereotypes ...by making them [the activities] cross-curricular.'

Tip 3 – Do your budget and plan add up?

- Are the activities you are planning realistic and achievable?
- The budget doesn't have to be very detailed but must link to the planned activities clearly
- Is the budget realistic; will it stretch to the ambitions you have?
- Tell us about any additional funding you have coming from other sources
- Many grant applications are not approved because there is not enough information

Students will be involved in determining resources and budgeting for their project with staff oversight, ensuring responsible use of funding whilst empowering them to take ownership of their project budgets. We anticipate costs may include:

- *Materials and supplies, e.g. for prototypes, demonstrations or experimentation*
- *Safety equipment (if not available on site)*
- *Books and reference materials*
- *Visual aids/supplies for presentations*

- *£100 soil and plants for ecosystems and planters*
- *£50 electronics for buzz games and plywood*
- *£100 resources for mini projects*
- *£20 printing costs for posters and leaflets for inviting families*
- *£30 funding pot for students with limited means*

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Thank you

Kick Start:

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