

# Into The Blue

*The science we live and breathe*

## Call for exhibits and activities

**Please read these guidelines before applying** for your activity to be included in the NERC *Into The Blue* Showcase 2016.

To apply, please complete the [online form](#) by the deadline of **16:00 on Friday 1 July 2016**.

## About

### What and why

NERC is offering a free-to-exhibit opportunity for researchers to run public engagement activities as part of our *Into The Blue* showcase this autumn. Visitors to the event will be a broad public audience, primarily focused on families and young people.

The showcase will be centred around the [NCAS FAAM research aircraft](#) and comprise of about 40 stands, as well as stage and discussion space, both inside and outside of an aircraft hangar. Through the exhibition stands, talks, debates and discussions, the event will engage visitors with the wonders of the natural world and connect a diverse range of people to the science that we live and breathe, and the process of doing research.

The aircraft will be stationed close to the main hangar and visitors will be able to book in advance to tour the aircraft. We anticipate around 7,500 visitors to the event over the five days.

### Showcase aims

1. Encourage, support and create the opportunity for environmental science researchers and the wider community to engage with members of the public
2. Promote and increase awareness of the environmental sciences, NERC's research and the process of research
3. Enable the public to engage with environmental science research
4. To carry out informed public debate about contemporary issues, including ethical and social implications in environmental science
5. To inform, inspire and interest members of the public and future researchers in environmental science and the processes of research, in a way that is accessible and relevant

### When and where

NERC's *Into The Blue* Showcase will be free to attend and take place during October half-term (for Manchester), from 25-29 October 2016 at [Manchester Runway Visitor Park](#). The showcase will be open to visitors during the daytime (hours to be confirmed). There will be some evening activities, which NERC will confirm the scope and timing of for successful applicants at our earliest opportunity.

*The Into The Blue* showcase is also part of the annual Manchester Science Festival (20-30 October inclusive).



Understanding our changing planet is fundamental to our future

## How to apply

You can apply to have an exhibition stand, or run an activity, talk or debate by completing the [online form](#). The deadline for applications is **16:00 on Friday 1 July 2016**.

### Who can apply

- NERC funded grant holders, postgraduate students
- Individuals or groups based within NERC centres
- Non-NERC funded environmental scientists
- Museums, science centres and environmental science organisations
- Charities, local authorities and other government bodies
- Local interest groups related to environmental science
- Any other organisation with links to or an interest in environmental science.

### Application criteria

The exhibits and activities chosen to make up the showcase must

- be accessible to members of the public and relevant to their everyday lives
- be held during the NERC *Into the Blue* Showcase 2016 (**Tuesday 25- Saturday 29 October 2016**)
  - Exhibition activities and outdoor activities must be run for the duration of the showcase, with activities appropriately staffed and resourced for this period.
  - Talks, discussions and debates must be run at least twice during this period of time.
- fit with the aims and objectives of the *Into the Blue* event
- fit with at least one of the four themes of the *Into the Blue* event – water, air, energy and/or health
- feature environmental science (ideally with an environmental scientist involved in developing and delivering the activity)

Examples of possible activities include:

- Exhibition activities (indoor or outdoor) – must have a sensory or hands-on element
- Citizen science activities
- Formal or informal talks or presentations (Café Scientifique, Pint, Science or Bright Club etc.)
- Panel discussion or debates

### Deadlines and timetable

- **16.00 Friday 1 July** - Deadline for [applications](#) for *Into the Blue* activities
- **Friday 29 July** - We will notify all applicants of outcome and send Event Details Form and Evaluation Forms
- **Thursday 11 August** – Venue visit and exhibitor introduction event
- **Friday 19 August** – Deadline for submission of Event Details Form
- **Tuesday 25 - Saturday 29 October** – NERC *Into the Blue* Showcase 2016
- **Friday 25 November** – Deadline for submitting exhibitor evaluation form.

### Contact Details

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 01793 411572



## FAQs

### What is the venue layout?

Manchester Runway Visitor Park boasts a large central space (hangar) containing the Concorde G-BOAC, with 1600sqm flexible floor space for exhibition stands, talks, receptions and other activities (each stand will have around 3m x 3m). There are further spaces available for talks, discussions and debates.

### Is the venue accessible?

The conferencing area which will house the main exhibition and activities has full wheelchair access, making it accessible to wheelchair users and those with small children and pushchairs.

### How do I get to the venue?

The Manchester Runway Visitor Park is 3 miles from Manchester Airport train station, with an hourly scheduled bus from the station, or a short taxi ride, allowing easy access via public transport.

### What equipment/resources will be available at the Manchester Runway Visitor Park?

- Tables and chairs for all exhibits
- Free WIFI
- Free on site car parking for exhibitors
- Cloakroom and refreshments
- Signage for your stand

### Can I apply to run an event with a collaborator/partner?

Yes. At the application stage complete the form including details of any committed collaborators/partners in the details of your event.

### What happens if my application is successful?

If your application is successful you will receive a letter by email confirming your success by close of business on Friday 29 July. This email will include an event details form so that we are able to gather more information about the activity you will be running.

### What happens if I am unsuccessful?

You will receive a letter explaining why your application was not successful. Where possible, we will try to identify opportunities for exhibitors to be involved in other ways, perhaps via collaborations with other applicants, or as a contributor to wider activities.

### What are the next steps?

Once you have received confirmation of your participation in the showcase, you will be sent a link to an online details and materials form. This is where we ask you to provide the final information on your event. **It is very important you complete this form before the deadline given, as this information is required to publicise the event.**

### Why have I not heard anything from NERC?

Please add [nercevents@nerc.ac.uk](mailto:nercevents@nerc.ac.uk) and [intotheblue@nerc.ac.uk](mailto:intotheblue@nerc.ac.uk) to your safe senders list to avoid important updates and information going to your spam.

