Applying to Scientists in Congregations – Frequently Asked Questions

Is SiC open to all types of Christian churches? Yes, we welcome applications from Christians of any denomination as well as independent congregations.

Is SiC open for events that do not take place in a traditional church? Yes. While most awards go to churches, events need not take place there. We have worked with theatre groups and other public spaces, but we ask that you begin with an existing scientist-congregation relationship.

Can we submit a proposal from a group of churches? Absolutely. If this is the case, you are able to submit applications including only one scientist/congregation connection.

What is the time frame for the projects? We aim to announce the award winners in June 2022, and expect projects to begin coming to fruition from this time onwards. Each project scope will be different, but we expect projects to be complete by June 2023.

Can I apply for a grant to continue an existing project? We would like to encourage applications from new projects primarily, but would welcome conversations with any existing SiC-funded projects (from our 2021 cohort) wishing to apply for follow-on activities.

Can I apply from another country? Proposals will be welcomed from England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Congregations in Scotland are encouraged to look into Scientists in Congregations Scotland: https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/scientistsincongregationsscotland/.

What if I have an idea, but am not sure of the details? We are happy to work with you, but it may be necessary to reach out before the application deadline. The more details you can provide and the earlier you make a connection, the better chance you will have of getting an award. Please email Despina Katsidou on sciencein.congregation@durham.ac.uk for further assistance.

Can I propose an online project? We encourage creative proposals and are open to diverse projects. Online meetings present their own challenges and opportunities. Let us know how you intend to make the most of the format you choose.

What if I am uncertain about dates (due to COVID-19)? We ask for an estimated timeline but understand the ever-changing challenges. Provide the information you can and, where appropriate, tell us your contingency plans.

What does a strong proposal look like?

Solid proposals will:

1. Affirm the work of scientists in their congregational context
2. Build on current organizational and personal strengths
3. Integrate clear goals and plans for achieving them
4. Show awareness of needs specific to the congregation and the wider community
5. Involve senior leadership, fully informed and actively engaged.

Superior proposals will:
1. Display a commitment to match funds with local resources
2. Have the potential to stimulate further engagement within the congregation
3. Have the potential to create a cascade effect beyond the congregation