



Glasgow Science Festival 2026: Content Proposal Info

2026 marks a significant milestone for Glasgow Science Festival as we reach 20 years old! This year's festival will run from **Thurs 4th to Sun 14th June 2026**. When I set up the festival in 2007, I could not have imagined how much we would grow over those two decades. Engaging with 860K+ people at our in-person events and over 1 million+ when we include digital engagements. Thank you to everyone who has been involved over the years, some of you for nearly all 19! We felt this warranted a deviation from our usual 'themes', so our title for this year is:

Glasgow Science Festival 2026: Cheers for 20 Years!

As always, we leave things open to interpretation, but we are looking at a retrospective on the festival, what outstanding ways has Glasgow-based research contributed to their respective fields over the last 20 years, and what could the next 20 years look like?

Glasgow will again host the Commonwealth Games throughout July and August 2026. For those at the University of Glasgow, there will be celebrations around the 575th anniversary. Content linked to either of these would be very welcome.

Our partners have a very broad research base, so as always, please don't worry if you have a great idea that doesn't fit with the theme. Not all our activities will, and we would still want to hear from you. GSF is a STEAMS festival, encompassing Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, Mathematics and Social Science. Proposals from all fields are very welcome.

We have made the decision to cease the digital arm of the programme 'Science on the Sofa' due to a reduction in demand. With a year-round SotS offering available on the GSF website.

Submitting your Proposals

We are now inviting partners to share your ideas for events and activities to be part of the GSF 2026. Please submit your ideas to us by **Monday 12th Jan 2026** using the [GSF 2026 Online Content Proposal Form](#).

You are more than welcome to propose multiple ideas but please submit them as **separate** applications as we request specific info about each offer. The list of questions you will be asked has been included at the end of this document for reference.

The GSF team will be in touch to discuss your proposal(s) throughout Jan/ Feb. If you would like to discuss your ideas ahead of submitting your proposal, please contact us on sciencefestival@glasgow.ac.uk

Please note that we deliver a very sizeable festival on modest budgets which unfortunately mean we are not able to commission content. We would be very happy to collaborate on funding applications where possible.

[GSF 2026 Online Content Proposal Form](#)

The GSF team will be running a series of info sessions on Teams ahead of the proposal deadline to share a little more info about the festival and give you opportunity to ask any questions. The session dates and times are Wed 29th October 2-2:45pm; Thurs 20th November 10-10:45am and Wed 10th December 10-10:45am. Book using the following link:

GSF Programme

Please note that all GSF events are free of charge to our audiences, with only a small number of exceptions.

Festival Activity Days- Tabletop Activities

GSF run small to large scale events for families, community groups and other interested publics. Get involved by proposing your ideas for interactive 'tabletop' activities e.g., experiments, games, demos, crafts, multimedia, research equipment, methods and people involved. With ethical approvals in place, we can also support data collection for your research.

At these events, we ‘pop up’ in various venues for a few hours, delivering activities for free, as a rolling drop-in. We do not typically host workshops as part of this offer due to lack of available space. Our audiences are very mixed: weekdays are adults, pre-school aged children and primary school pupils. Weekends are very mixed across all age ranges.

Examples of GSF Festival Activity Days & Community Days you can be part of, with suggested themes:

- Riverside museum: 4th to 14th June – tech, innovation, engineering, transport, renewables
- Glasgow Botanic Gardens: 5th to 14th June - sustainability, botany, biodiversity, health & wellbeing
- Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum: TBC June - digital innovation & visitor experience, wildlife, engineering & music
- Various community and library venues- all themes welcomed

Examples would include panel discussions, films with Q&As, site visits, tours, trails, gardening activities, citizen science projects, food and drink events, workshops, networking events, student skills development..... If it involves research staff & students and/ or links to current research, we'd love to hear your ideas. We don't typically host lectures as many of our partners already run these, but welcome more informal talk events.

In 2025, we trialled a new approach, curating three themed evenings for adult audiences at the Advanced Research Centre at the University of Glasgow. Audiences booked into the overarching event and were then able to move freely between an array of performances, workshops, tabletops, tours and talks. Delivered by colleagues from three universities and other partner organisations.

For 2026, we will repeat this format and curate two or three evening events for adults. Dates are TBC with the ARC team but we are aiming for one evening linked to the main festival theme- GSFs Cheers for 20 Years and another linked to Glasgow hosting the commonwealth games.

Exhibitions

If you have an exhibition arranged, we would be delighted to collaborate and promote this within the festival. We may have some venues options available if your offer is small and can 'pop-up' within a space i.e. is on portable stands, as we wouldn't have access to walls to hang materials.

Please note if you would like to take part in more than one strand, we ask that you submit a **separate** proposal for each. E.g. if you are submitting a tabletop and an event, that would be two proposals.

Costs

We offer free access to the programme to our University, College, and selected partner organisations. We support your content with a venue, audience generation, marketing, front of house and development/delivery advice. As we do not charge you a participation fee or generate income from selling tickets (to remove the barrier of costs to our audiences), our delivery budgets are very modest. Additional event costs e.g., AV/IT or consumables will be met by you. We can partner on grant applications to support you with this. For other partners interested in getting involved and not from HE/ FE or third sector, please email science.festival@glasgow.ac.uk to discuss programme fees or sponsorship options.

Next Steps in Brief

Successful applicants will be contacted throughout Jan & Feb then provided with an info pack which will explain in full detail everything you need to know to progress with being part of the festival. I'm sharing a brief overview here to give you an outline of the timeline we are working too:

- 12th Jan: Content proposal deadline
- End Feb: Confirmation of successful applications
- Feb to March: Discussions with the team around content, dates, venues etc
- 6th March: Finalise tabletop activity information (date, venue, content)
- 25th March: Finalise in-person event information (title, blurb, dates, times, venue, booking info as required)
- 28th April: GSF26 programme goes live
- 1st May: submit PLI, risk assessment, event/ activity requirements, t-shirt requests
- 4th to 14th June 2026: Glasgow Science Festival delivery- in-person
- June to Aug: evaluation and reporting

These are the questions you will be asked when submitting your online proposal

- Event organiser name, phone number, email & twitter handles.
- What organisation you work at.
- If you are working at University of Glasgow, you will be asked your college or service area & school. If you work at another University or organisation, we do not need this info from you
- Option to add a second and third organiser (same info requested as above).
- Title of your event/ activity
- Short description of your event/ activity (max 100 words)- please use this space to provide the team with info on your offer, being specific about what will happen, what you are proposing to deliver & what audiences will do.
- Blurb (max 40 words) – if you have a draft blurb ready, please do share it with us. This is the short text used for promoting your activity to audiences- don't worry if you don't have this. We can help. GSF reserves the right to edit all blurbs as required.
- Programme strand – refer to table above for category descriptions.
- How many days of delivery would you like to do and which days are you available.
- Any other info?
- Would you like to sponsor an event?
- Email address to get your proposal emailed to you