BRITISH SCIENCE FESTIVAL: AI RESEARCH COLLABORATION

RESEARCHERS' APPLICATIONS OPEN

WHAT IS THIS?

The British Science Festival is coming to Southampton in September 2026, presenting a rare opportunity to showcase research on Artificial Intelligence to the wider science community and the general public.

University of Southampton are working with the team at Mayflower to develop new creative responses to current research which will be showcased as part of the British Science Festival in September 2026. Researchers are invited to share their research on Artificial Intelligence with the artists/theatre-makers selected by Mayflower. In conversation with the researchers chosen, artists will develop creative responses to the research, in the form of 15 minute pieces.

The works will be presented at Mayflower Studios on Saturday 19th September 2026, as part of the British Science Festival.

WHY?

- **Promote:** an opportunity to platform your area of research
- **Creativity:** CPD opportunity to explore collaboration with an expert from another discipline
- **Public Engagement & Knowledge Exchange:** Be involved in the creation of a piece of theatre that will be performed in public during British Science Festival

This is an unfunded opportunity, expenses will be covered.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Four researchers/groups of researchers working within the Artificial Intelligence field, who are open to collaborating with four theatre-makers/artists, enabling them to create a work that responds to and communicates the research. The collaborations will result in four 15 minute pieces to be performed live at Mayflower Studios during the British Science Festival. Researchers do not need prior experience in theatre/arts projects.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

The collaboration will involve an initial facilitated workshop attended by the selected artists and researchers. This will be held in person at Mayflower Studios on Tuesday 19th May 2026.

This will be followed by two facilitated online/in person meetings between the researcher and artist, held across May and June, arranged subject to individuals' availability and the needs of the project.

Artists will perform in an informal sharing on Friday 21st August 2026 where they will have the opportunity to share the work with a small invited audience ahead of the public performance on Saturday 19th September 2026.

The project will be evaluated and researchers and artists will be required to participate in interviews and questionnaires throughout the project and after the September sharing.

HOW TO APPLY

Tuesday 14th April 2026 – deadline to complete the application form.

We're looking for areas of research within the Artificial Intelligence field that present rich sources of inspiration for a creative collaboration, and for a person/people that we feel would work well with the identified artist/theatre maker.

In the application form, we'd like to hear about:

- Your specific research within the Artificial Intelligence area.
- Your interest in this project, specifically why you'd like to collaborate with artists/theatre-makers.
- Which aspects of your research would be interesting to explore through a creative collaboration.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Tuesday 14th April 2026	Application deadline
Week commencing 27th April 2026	Informal interviews
Week commencing 4th May 2026	Candidates advised of outcome

PROJECT KEY DATES

Tuesday 19th May	Facilitated workshops (all researchers & artists)
TBA with researchers & artists	x2 researcher/artist meetings
Monday 20th – Wednesday 23rd July	Rehearsal week (TBC – other dates may be agreed)
Friday 21st August	Informal sharing with researchers and artists
Friday 18th September	Technical rehearsal (TBC)
Saturday 19th September	Performance during British Science Festival