Guide for applicants of FameLab UK 2018-19

Welcome to FameLab! We are a fabulous community of FameLabbers and we are all so pleased you wish to enter the competition! The aim of FameLab is to:

- Develop skills and opportunities for scientists and engineers to engage with the public in an entertaining and informative manner, whilst recognising the importance of communication
- Enthuse and engage public audiences around the world about their science, technology, engineering and mathematics

If you successful, you will receive:

- A weekend masterclass on science communication in Cheltenham on the 1st and 2nd June 2019 delivered by experts in media & communication skills
- Compete at the UK final at the Cheltenham Science Festival on the 3rd June in front of a live audience!
- In the chance to win £2000 if you are the winner, £1000 if you are the runner up or audience winner of the UK final
- The UK winner will represent the UK at the Grand FameLab International Final on the 6 June 2019 competing with countries all across the world!
- All expenses paid trip to the Cheltenham Science Festival where you can meet with FameLab participants around the world, and immerse yourself in the vibrant Cheltenham Science Festival programme.

If you are applying, please ensure you are able to attend the compulsory masterclass and the UK final on the 1-3 June 2019 in Cheltenham.

Eligibility and criteria

If you would like to apply for FameLab, please see the FameLab web pages on eligibility and criteria. Please contact famelab@cheltenhamfestivals.com if you are unsure about your eligibility.

Application process and timescale.

There are two ways of applying to FameLab. You can choose to audition live at your nearby regional heats. This a great opportunity to receive a mini training session with our regional FameLab co-ordinators, meet new people and have the experience of performing to a live audience!

The other way of applying to FameLab is to send in a video of your 3 min presentation as part of your application form. You will not receive the training session with the regional co-ordinators but this may be more convenient for you if you are not able to attend the regionals heats or finals.

Criteria for video entries:

- The video must be 3 mins long (content will not be judged after 3 mins)
- Videos should be filmed once without any editing or special effects. You will need to be facing the camera while giving your presentation.
- Videos should not involve other people or excessive use of props
- There should be no background music – unless this is something you are talking about
- If you are successful at the first stage of the application process you will need to send in another video of a different presentation
An overview of the application process and timelines is summarised in the diagram below:

Applications open in November 2018

I am going to audition live at a nearby regional heat

LATE JAN/FEB 2019: Contestants go to the mini training session by the FameLab regional co-ordinator and perform in the regional heats

LATE FEB/MAR 2019: Those who are successful will move onto the regional final where they have to prepare a second presentation. Regional winner is selected.

JUNE 2019: Winners of the regional final will go on to the weekend masterclass and UK final at the Cheltenham Science Festival on 1-3 June 2019

JUNE 2019: Winner of UK final will compete in the FameLab International Final on the 6 June 2019

I am going to submit a video entry

LATE JAN/FEB 2019: Cheltenham Festivals team will select the successful video entries. People who have applied through the digital route will not receive the mini training session but will be directed to the online video content around FameLab

LATE FEB/MAR 2019: Those who are successful will be contacted by FameLab project manager to send in another video of a different presentation. One Video finalist is selected by Cheltenham Festivals team

June 2019: Video finalist join all UK finalists to attend the compulsory weekend masterclass and UK final at the Cheltenham Science Festival on 1-3 June 2019

JUNE 2019: Winner of UK final will compete in the FameLab International Final on the 6 June 2019
Finally we wish you the best of luck and hope you make the most of developing your science communication skills and meeting loads of great new people – we are a global community!

You can see all of your latest news on our Twitter page (@FameLab) and if you ever have any questions, please get in touch the FameLab team at famelab@cheltenhamfestivals.com