

**BRITISH
SCIENCE
FESTIVAL**

16 - 20 September 2026
Southampton

The British Science Festival

General Overview

October '25 version

A partnership between



Why Southampton?

The University of Southampton is a globally connected, research-intensive institution, renowned for driving innovation across science, engineering, and the humanities.

The University of Southampton hosting of the British Science Festival is committed to:

- + Centring partner voice and regional stories of people, research and innovation
- + Weaving inclusive approaches throughout
- + Creative and cultural engagement
- + Building on 25+ years of successful Festivals (Southampton Science and Engineering Festival)



Top 20

UK university



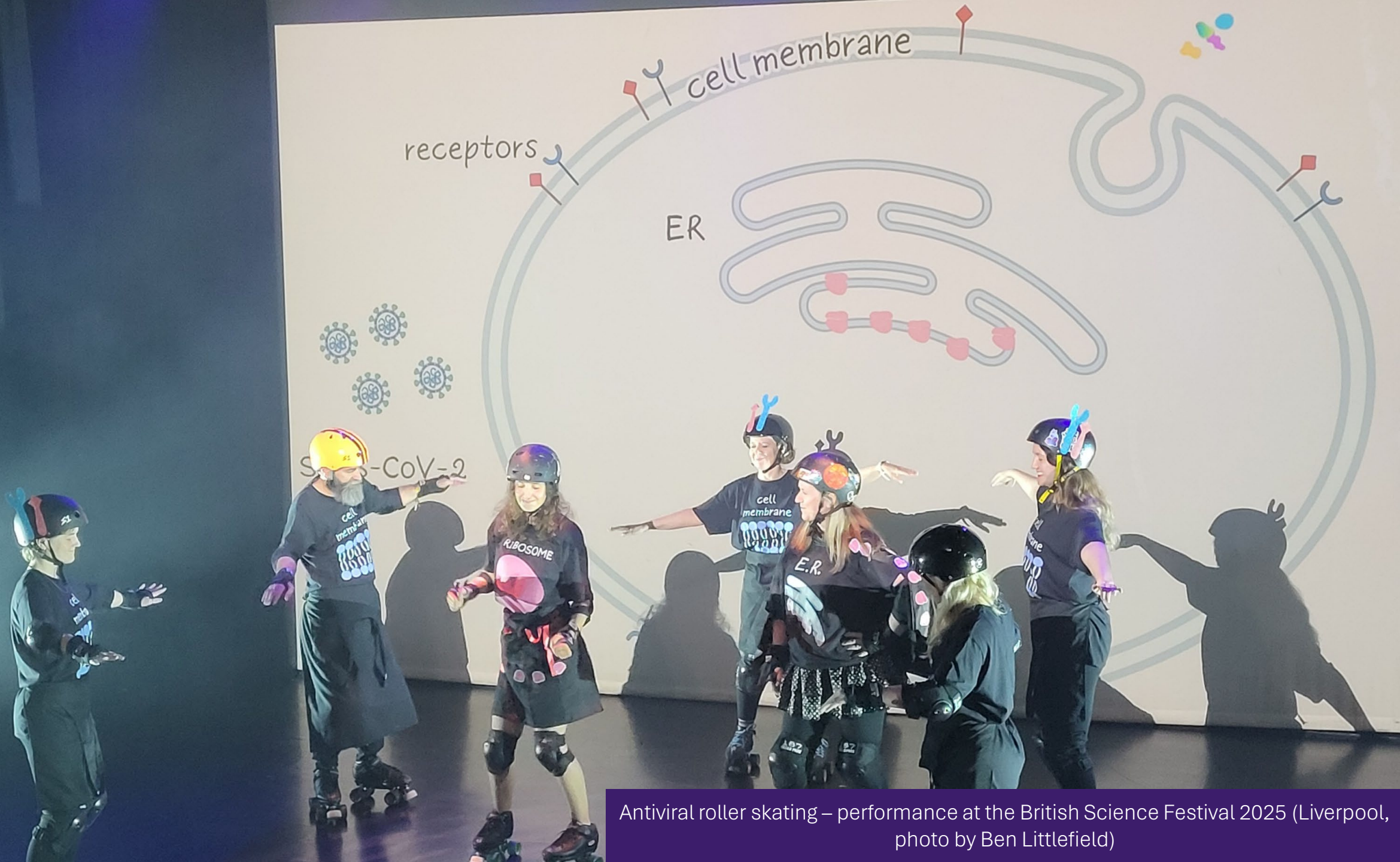
£4.14bn

UK economic impact



92%

of research is world-leading



Antiviral roller skating – performance at the British Science Festival 2025 (Liverpool, photo by Ben Littlefield)



British Science Festival 2025 (Liverpool, photo by Gavin Trafford and Gareth Jones, via British Science Association)

Festival objectives - UoS

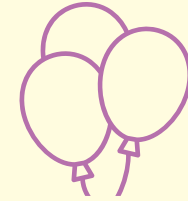
- + Explore centring partner voice and EDI in engagement activities more widely
- + Develop arts-science collaborations as a major engagement approach
- + Catalyse and develop capacity, capability and coordination for high quality Public Engagement
- + Establish and evolve relationships with local/regional/national partners and sponsors that have lasting legacy
- + Meaningful contribution to both Research Impact and Regional Growth and Prosperity
- + Increase both media reach and reputation/trust



The Greatest Science Demonstrations. Ever! – performance by the Royal Institution at the British Science Festival 2025 (Liverpool, photo by Gavin Trafford and Gareth Jones, via British Science Association)

Programme details - one

- + 20 % of content comes from the University of Southampton, this will include: **AI, Environmental Sustainability, Maritime, Photonics and Semiconductors** and **Health Sciences**
- + ~ 50 % of content comes from competitive calls across the UK, from the open call to award lectures
- + 30 % of content is directly curated by the British Science Association
- + Content jointly selected with a **youth panel** of 16–18-year-olds from across Southampton and based on extensive consultation with community partners

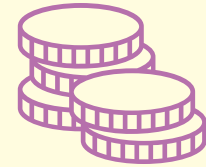


80 - 100

**Activities connecting
with audiences and
communities**

Programme details - two

- + 16th – 18th of September activities will likely focus on connecting with 16 – 18-year-olds across the region, supporting future skills and employability
- + 19th – 20th of September activities will likely be in Southampton City Centre, connecting with communities and public groups across the city
- + Further activities will be happening in Arts and Cultural venues across the City
- + Satellite events will be welcomed by partners across the wider region



~ 5

**Community grants
awarded as part of
the Festival**



British Science Festival 2025 (Liverpool, photo by Gavin Trafford and Gareth Jones, via British Science Association)

Top-level timetable

- + October '25: Closed call for content closes
 - + November '25: Open call for content launches
 - + January '26: Open call closes and decisions made
 - + February '26: Community grants open
 - + March '26: Skeleton programme confirmed
 - + June '26: Full programme launched and advertised
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- + 16th – 20th September 2026: The British Science Festival

Building momentum

- + Events and activities in 2026 geared towards connecting with potential audiences and signposting
- + Southampton Science and Engineering Festival (SOTSEF, 6th – 15th March 2026, 6000+ attendees)
- + ‘Bringing Research to Life’ Roadshow
 - + Visiting the 5 central Southampton postcodes
 - + SO14, SO15, SO17, SO18, SO19
 - + Contributing to existing community led events
 - + Mela and Southampton Pride highly likely
- + Opportunity to join us, and/or collaborate further afield?



5

**Research roadshow
destinations across
Southampton**

How to get involved

- + Take part by proposing content as an activity provider
- + Shape the Festival through Sponsorship
- + Consider running a 'Satellite event' across the wider region
- + Support the Festival through sharing across your audiences



Let's shape the future together

General enquiries

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