



Are you looking for a new way to communicate your research to the public whilst inspiring young people to pursue a career in STEM (and earn a little cash while you're doing it)? We are looking for six early-career researchers or PhD candidates from a science/STEM field to participate in this year's Beaker Street CoLab Project.

What is CoLab?

[CoLab](#) is an experiment that aims to find out what happens when you bring together research scientists, high school students, and contemporary art. Through CoLab, we aim to help young Tasmanians facing disadvantage to see a place for themselves in our state's thriving STEM sector.

CoLab invites students to learn about your research through first-hand exposure and challenges them to develop artworks inspired by the research and their experiences. The artworks will then be exhibited at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) during Beaker Street Festival in August. This is an amazing experience for the students, and also provides a new way to communicate your research to a public audience — in a fun, innovative, and inclusive way.

CoLab gives participating students a rare, real-life insight into what it is you do. It helps them connect with the current research and topics that affect their lives and helps them see their own potential in a new light, maybe even leading to a career in science/STEM.

We work with participating schools to select motivated students from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds, many of whom feel that science and STEM pathways are not accessible.

There are numerous benefits for you too, including experimenting with new forms of scientific outreach, and opportunities for public and media exposure. Participating individual/ lead scientists will also receive a **\$500 tax-free honorarium**.

This opportunity is open to individual researchers as well as whole or partial research groups, although one person must take the lead and be the main point of contact with the students, as outlined below.

How will it work?

- All participating scientists will need to obtain a Working With Vulnerable People Card. If you don't already have one, Beaker Street will pay for you to get one.
- Each scientist will be paired with two students from a participating school
- Scientists and students will meet at a morning tea event to be held at the participating school (within 20-30 minutes' drive from Hobart — we can arrange transport if needed)
- Scientists will attend a workshop with the students to be held at TMAG on the 2nd of April from 10am – 2pm. The workshop will be fully catered.
- We will schedule a visit (usually a half-day) with the students to your lab or field site. The aim is for students to gain a genuine insight into how science works, and the daily process of doing research. Even if you're not in the middle of a project, bringing the students to see a colleague's work, or giving them a demonstration in the lab, can be just as valuable. Hands-on experiences work particularly well, if that's a possibility. If you're part of a research group, we'd love it if as many of your colleagues got involved as possible to show the students what they're working on and how they do it.
- After the site visit, students might reach out to ask follow-up questions, and we ask that you make yourself available for an occasional Zoom session, phone call, or possibly another in-person meeting.
- Scientists will be required to briefly attend a second workshop at TMAG on the 11th of June. This will enable students to gain your feedback on their artworks in progress and ask you any further questions about your research.
- The student artworks will then be exhibited at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery during the month of August, and we'd love for you to be there along with the students for the big launch event on August 15th, as part of Beaker Street Festival's key weekend. This is an opportunity to celebrate with the students and their families and talk with the public about your work. It will be lots of fun, and you'll even get a fancy LED-lit name badge ;-)
- You will need to feel comfortable with some candid filming along the way as we intend to create some fun digital content to complement the program and extend its reach. (We will of course respect any workplace restrictions on filming and photography.)
- We expect your total investment of time on this will be around 15-20 hours, spread out over a couple months.
- At the conclusion of the program, there will be an opportunity for further engagement if you're interested. This may be through an in-class visit to the participating high school to speak with a larger group about your work, or through taking a paid role in a road trip to rural schools around the state.

Key Dates

It is essential that you are available on the following dates:

- 2nd of April, 10am - 2pm: Workshop 1 at TMAG
- Availability between the 6th – 17th of April for half day visit to your research lab
- 11th of June, 11am – 1pm: Workshop 2 at TMAG
- 15th August: Opening event and exhibition at TMAG as part of Beaker Street Festival

There will also be a short meet and greet morning tea at the participating high schools between the 16th – 20th of March (exact date/time TBC).

To find out more about CoLab: <https://www.beakerstreet.com.au/co-lab/>

How Do I Sign Up?

Send us an expression of interest as a short video via email by **Tuesday 10 March**. This can just be a very casual selfie video describing the following:

- Tell us briefly about yourself, including your department (if relevant), and university or other affiliation. Please also let us know what qualification/s you have or are pursuing.
- Explain your research in a few sentences, with a high-school student audience in mind.
- Let us know why you'd like to get involved with CoLab.
- Please include a brief description of the lab visit you would ideally host at your research facility.
- Please confirm your availability on the key dates.

Please email expressions of interest to lucy@beakerstreet.com.au, with the subject line "CoLab expression of interest."

Any questions?

Send an email to lucy@beakerstreet.com.au, and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.