

Local Section activities in 2019

A digest of the reported Local Section activities of 2019.

The Royal Society of Chemistry has 35 Local Sections in the UK and Ireland and 22 international Local Sections in 17 countries. All of our Local Sections carry out activities to support RSC members in their local area, and are required to submit an Annual Report detailing these activities each year.

What is the Annual Report?

The Annual Report is a report on the activities of the network during the past year and enables RSC staff to measure and quantify the reach and impact of these member networks. The information in the Annual Report is used:

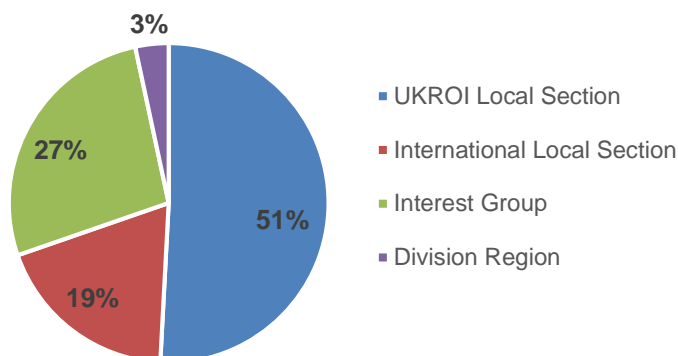
- to promote to existing and potential members the breadth and quality of our community-led activities,
- to identify common challenges to develop bespoke training and resources for our committees, and
- to demonstrate and report how our grants and networks are contributing to our charitable aims.

110 of 136 Annual Reports were received, reporting almost 600 member network events in 2019 attended by approximately 48,000 people.

Overview of 2019 events

More than half (51%) of all reported 2019 activities were organised by Local Sections and almost one in 5 (19%) of all member network events was organised by an international Local Section, catering to over 15,000 people in 11 countries outside of the UK and Ireland.

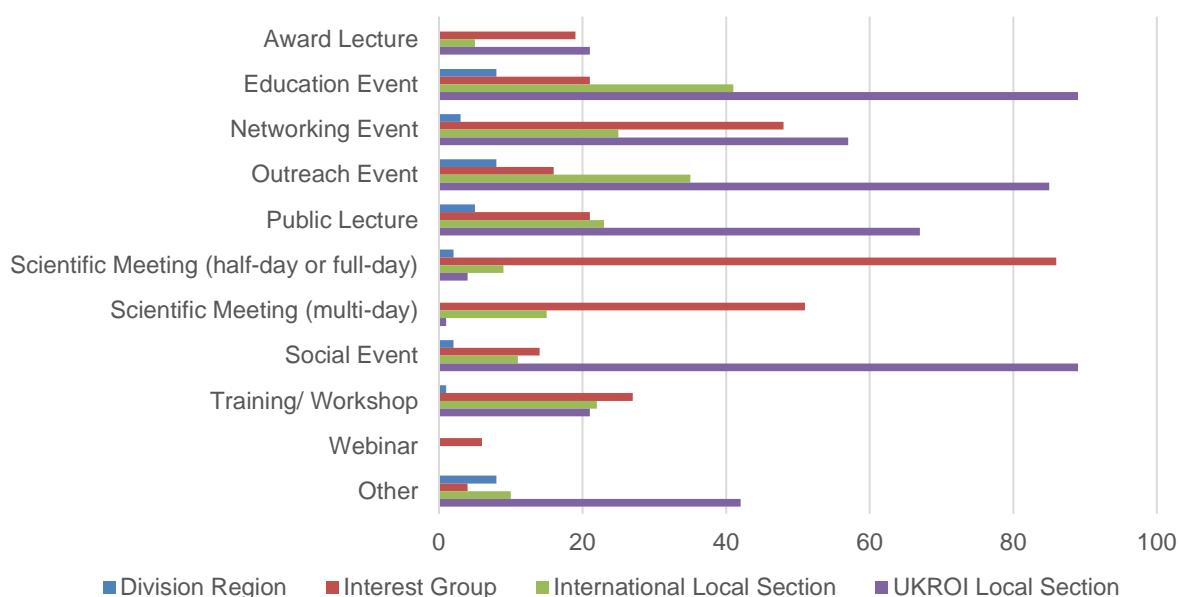
% of 2019 events per network type



Our Local Sections plan events and activities to support RSC members in their local area; a large proportion of these are social and networking events to bring members together. Our Local Sections are also essential for helping us to fulfil our purpose of advancing excellence in the chemical sciences; they organise education and outreach activities for students and members of the public in the local community.

Our 71 Interest Groups support the general advancement of chemical science in their subject area by the dissemination of knowledge; most Interest Group events are therefore scientific meetings and conferences, and many offer bespoke networking and training opportunities for their members. Our international Local Sections also organise and support local scientific meetings for their members.

Different events per member network type



Financial support offered in 2019

Our Interest Groups and Local Sections awarded 193 grants and bursaries and sponsored 53 events in 2019.

Within the UK, our Local Sections supported 7 schools with grants to participate in Top of the Bench, take pupils on chemistry themed trips, and support the creation of chemistry clubs. Local Sections sponsored 13 local scientific and public engagement activities and offered over £3000 in Travel Grants to support 20 members to attend local and international conferences.

Outside of the UK, our Local Sections supported the International Spring School of Electrochemistry in Sicily and 11 scientific meetings in Ireland. Our Malaysia Local Section also offered Travel Grants to attend international conferences.

Highlights of 2019

2019 was the International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT) and many of our Local Sections used this as a platform for highly successful public engagement and outreach activities, including:

- Our Glasgow and West of Scotland Local Section **knitted the periodic table** and generated a considerable amount of interest amongst those that otherwise might not have engaged with IYPT.
- Our Peninsula Local Section had an **IYPT Sir Humphry Davy** event in Penzance to mark the end of the IYPT to celebrate Sir Humphry Davy's achievements in his hometown.
- Our Malaysia Local Section organised an **IYPT Instagram competition** that created awareness of the IYPT with many creative entries and generated interest in chemistry among schoolchildren.
- Our Nigeria Local Section reached out to **350 secondary school students** and their teachers to motivate them about the periodic table and careers in the chemical sciences

Other highlights included:

- Our North Staffordshire Local Section's **Pottery about Chemistry** event attracted a wide cross-section of the public.
- Our Bristol & District Local Section **Murder Mystery Howlers** received the best feedback of their events; and the central location and early evening time-slot ensured a larger than normal audience.
- Our Republic of Ireland Local Section's **Chemistry Wikithon** event pulled together a diverse range of practicing chemists, and left a future legacy for promoting accuracy in a world of 'fake science'.