



Teachers

User Guide:

How to access STEM Ambassadors to enhance learning

STEM Ambassadors help bring STEM subjects alive and provide real-life examples of careers, facilitating an invaluable link between schools and industry.



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POWERED BY STEM LEARNING



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Contents

Background

Programme Background	3
Who is STEM Learning?	3
Who are STEM Ambassadors?	4

Benefits and impact

Benefits	5
Impact	5

Ways to connect with STEM Ambassadors

Pre-planned activities involving STEM Ambassadors	6
Request a STEM Ambassador for your school	6
Browse STEM Ambassador activities	6
Guidelines for working well with STEM Ambassadors	7

Key information

Frequently Asked Questions	8
Contact details	8
Safeguarding Information	9



STEM Learning and programme background

Programme Background

Since 2002, the **STEM Ambassadors programme** has supported thousands of amazing volunteers to bring real-life examples of STEM skills and careers into schools, colleges and universities across the UK. Volunteers help to break stereotypes and offer engaging activities to inspire the next generation into the infinite possibilities of STEM pathways.



The STEM Ambassadors programme is powered by STEM Learning and funded by **UK Research and Innovation**.

Who is STEM Learning?

At **STEM Learning**, our vision is to improve lives through STEM education. Through the STEM Ambassadors programme, teacher training courses, quality-assured learning resources and **Destination STEM**, we are dedicated to empowering young people with the skills and knowledge to thrive.

We work in collaboration with the UK Government, employers large and small, organisations and educational establishments to deliver positive STEM interactions for teachers, young people and beyond.

We're particularly grateful to our key funders, many of which have been with us on our journey since 2004: **UK Research and Innovation**, **Gatsby**, and **Wellcome**.



Who are STEM Ambassadors?

STEM Ambassadors are positive role models who give their time and enthusiasm for free to bring STEM subjects to life and demonstrate their value to young people aged 5 to 19.

They come from diverse backgrounds and a wide range of STEM-related disciplines, showcasing the many career paths available in STEM.

By sharing their knowledge, experiences and skills, STEM Ambassadors inspire students and demonstrate real-life applications of learning.

All STEM Ambassadors hold an enhanced **DBS** or **PVG certificate** and volunteer for **free** with schools and community groups across the UK.

STEM Ambassadors can:



Give talks and presentations



Support STEM Clubs



Talk to educators and leadership



Mentor or tutor



Offer interactive activities and workshops



Provide workplace experiences



Support with employability events like careers fairs or mock interviews



Help judge competitions or challenges

Benefits and impact of the programme

Benefits

STEM Ambassadors are inspirational role models for young people, bringing many benefits. They can:

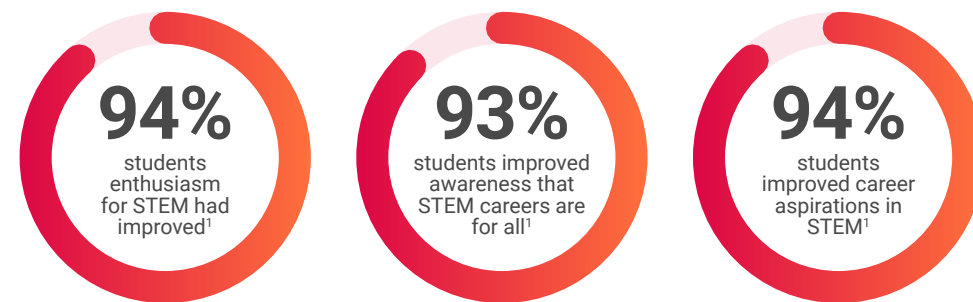
- ✓ show how STEM skills apply in the real world
- ✓ illustrate what a career in STEM really looks like and share their own stories
- ✓ make STEM relatable by bringing experience of the everyday into sessions
- ✓ bring specialist equipment for young people to experience
- ✓ challenge young people to solve real-life problems



Impact

The STEM Ambassadors programme makes a real impact on young people. Research shows that interacting with a STEM Ambassador transforms young people's perceptions of STEM subjects and careers.

After working with STEM Ambassadors:



Helping young people to see a future for themselves in STEM

Research shows that inspiring STEM role models can boost young people's Science Capital² and help them see a future for themselves in STEM.

"The STEM Ambassadors inspired the girls in under-represented STEM subjects, such as physics, by showing them how they connect with issues girls care about and their gateway to interesting careers."

– Teaching and Learning Coach, Harwich and Essex

¹ Educator perspectives on the STEM Ambassadors programme – July 2023

² Science Capital is based around theories of social capital. The more you have, the more likely you are to believe that 'science is for me', which can lead to engaging better as well as taking science education further.

Ways to connect with STEM Ambassadors

Pre-planned activities

There are many pre-planned activities that involve STEM Ambassadors. These are easy to access and are a great way to introduce young people to the programme.

For younger students aged 7 to 11, [webinars](#) can be streamed directly into classrooms, where they will hear from a STEM Ambassador and learn more about a specific topic.

For older students aged 13 to 19, a free 10-week [mentoring](#) scheme is available, connecting students online with a STEM Ambassador for personal guidance and careers advice.

Or join [I'm a Scientist](#), a fun, student-led STEM activity where students chat with real scientists in live, online, text-based sessions.

Request a STEM Ambassador for your school

You can request a STEM Ambassador to come and meet with your young people. This is great if you have a specific request for a STEM Ambassador, such as a careers fair or a STEM/Coding Club. You can find guidance on how to request a STEM Ambassador by advertising an activity [here](#). To help you with your requests, there are also some example activity listings, for both [primary](#), [secondary](#) or [FE](#).

Browse STEM Ambassador activities

STEM Ambassadors will put up activities offering their time and knowledge for a certain subject or topic. You can browse these activities and get in touch with the Ambassador directly through the integrated messaging system on our platform. There is guidance on how to browse these activities [here](#).



“

“I really liked learning about Ecology. It was so cool to meet a real scientist and to learn about what they do!”
– Student at a Harris Academy in London

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Ways to connect with STEM Ambassadors

Guidelines for working well with STEM Ambassadors

It is important to remember that STEM Ambassadors are volunteers who generously give their time for free. You should maintain good communication with STEM Ambassadors who contact you and provide clear activity details well in advance. The focus should be on activities that benefit young people aged between 5 to 19.

Full written guidelines for requesting a STEM Ambassador can be found [here](#).

Quick Links

[Free mentoring scheme](#) →

[Advertise an activity](#) →

[Example activities \(Primary\)](#) →

[Example activities \(Secondary & FE\)](#) →

[Activity browsing guide](#) →

[Guidelines for requests](#) →

“

“The impact [of the STEM Ambassadors programme] is widening horizons and raising awareness, and raising aspirations because some of the children don't think they have the skills and abilities to be successful in a field. But, when they meet someone who tells their story about what they did, and how they got there, it can really help them have that confidence to progress.”

– Teacher

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Key information

Find out more about the STEM Ambassadors programme during our **online information session: [How to Access STEM Volunteers - for Educators.](#)**

Looking for answers to your questions? Check out a selection of frequently asked questions about the STEM Ambassadors programme.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) →

Contact details

If your question is not answered in the FAQs above, the STEM Ambassador Support Team are here to help:

For questions or feedback about the programme, please contact stem-ambassadors@stem.org.uk

For IT problems please contact support@stem.org.uk with screen shots if possible.

To speak to someone on the phone (between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays), please call: 01904 949702

There is a fantastic network of 12 STEM Ambassador Delivery Partners who help to co-ordinate the volunteering opportunities for STEM Ambassadors across the UK, focusing on making an impact in their local area. If you have a question specific to activities or STEM Ambassadors in your local area, please contact the **[Delivery Partner for your region.](#)**



Safeguarding Information

All STEM Ambassadors are subject to background checks appropriate to their location – **PVG in Scotland, and DBS in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.**

Please note that **PVG and DBS checks are not interchangeable between the UK nations.** For example, a PVG is specific to Scotland and is not valid in England, Wales, or Northern Ireland, and vice versa. If you are working with a STEM Ambassador from a different part of the UK, they may not hold a certificate specific to your school's/ community groups safeguarding requirements.

In some cases, Ambassadors may hold **both a DBS and a PVG** if their volunteering spans multiple regions.

If you'd like to know what type of check an Ambassador has completed, feel free to [contact us](#), or use the chat function on the STEM Ambassador platform to speak directly with them. We're here to support you in making informed decisions about your event's safeguarding needs.



STEM
is my bag



www.stem.org.uk

I'm made from natural cotton and am reusable

STEM Learning



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