Be a part of our mission to support social mobility and diversity in STEM

Host a placement and inspire young people to become the next generation of STEM pioneers
An introduction to In2scienceUK

In2scienceUK is an award-winning charity which exists to increase diversity and equal opportunity within the STEM sector. Our high-impact programme enables local Year 12 students to work alongside STEM professionals in academia and industry, as well as participate in workshop activities to support university applications and employability.

Why host a student?

There is a current shortfall of 173,000 skilled workers within STEM industries and the UK needs to increase the number of STEM graduates by as much as 50% to meet industry demand and ensure economic stability and growth.

Yet poverty and social status remain huge barriers to progressing to university, and social mobility in the UK remains among the lowest in the developed world with top universities dominated by young people from the most privileged homes.

Young people from low-income backgrounds are often the overlooked generation who may hold the key to unlocking the UK’s potential to remain at the forefront of STEM-based industries.

By volunteering to host an In2scienceUK student you can equip a young person with the experience, skills, knowledge and confidence to pursue a career in STEM and achieve their potential.
The benefits of hosting a student

1. Learn new skills and gain experience working with young people to diversify your CV and develop career enhancing skills.

2. Develop your communication, mentoring and teaching skills.

3. Provides evidence of public engagement and outreach in grant applications, as well as departmental REFs, Athena SWAN applications, Annual Reports.

4. Enables you to volunteer and give back to your local community during your regular working day.

“...It is important that kids can really see that anyone can do science and it is a really fun and diverse environment to be in.”

Dr Sian Culley, UCL
Host a two week placement

This is your opportunity to harness your passion and expertise for STEM by giving a young person a unique experience, participating in your area of research or work and learning what it is like to pursue a career in STEM.

Placements are preferably two weeks in duration and run between the 27th of July and 28th of August. Volunteer hosts select the dates and placements, with days typically running from 10am to 4pm.

All students are provided with a bursary to cover their expenses.

In2scienceUK activities

By hosting a student, you are also enabling them to participate in the following activities led by In2scienceUK:

Workshops & skills days - Students participate in careers and skills workshops hosted by In2scienceUK, providing them with additional knowledge and skills to support them develop their future careers.

Projects - In2scienceUK works closely with scientific writing accreditation organisations to provide students with the opportunity to convert their placement experience into an accredited award to support their University application.

Competitions - In2scienceUK students and hosts have the opportunity to participate in our photo, video and blog public engagement competitions.

Celebration event - All hosts and students are invited to our celebration, giving them a chance to meet other hosts, celebrate their success and receive competition prizes.
Placement activities
What to expect as a host volunteer

Students typically spend their time supporting their host with as many activities as possible. These might include:

- Enabling your student to work alongside you on your ongoing projects
- Analysis of research – with findings presented to the team
- Enable students to interview colleagues about their areas of research, industry and their career path to understand their routes into STEM
- Challenging your students to learn new skills and how to use new software as part of their placement
- Hosting mock interviews for a job or university application to develop their interview skills
- Supporting a student to complete their UCAS or apprenticeship application
- Arranging for students to visit other labs, research centers and departments
- Helping your student to start their CREST award write up, thinking about their own hypothesis, methods and results
- Asking your student to prepare an end of project presentation or poster to summarise their placement and present to the team
Each of our students are shortlisted from a written application, interviewed and required to take part in a pre-placement skills day. They are then matched with hosts, ensuring that they are the best fit for the placement and have a real passion for STEM.

Our students are currently studying at least one STEM subject in Year 12, and are aged between 16-18 years old.

Our selection criteria is based on new data published by the DfE which identifies those most under-represented at university and in STEM and research careers.

1. Free School Meal (FSM) recipient - a key measure of poverty
2. Have, or continue to receive Pupil Premium, Education Maintenance Allowance or the 16-19 Bursary
3. Students who have no parents with a Higher Education degree
4. Students that live within a POLAR3 Q1 area - these statistics represent students least likely to progress to Higher Education based on the area in which they live
2020 Timeline

May
- Host applications close and details of placements confirmed.
- Student interviews take place and students are matched to hosts

June
- We contact you to provide you with the details of your allocated students

June/July
- We invite hosts to participate in a training session – this is to provide you with as much support as possible as well as ensure that all hosts are familiar with safeguarding policies.

July 27th - August 28th
- Placements take place during these weeks

September
- Celebration Events!
In the next three years, the charity has plans to expand nationally to enable more young people from low-income backgrounds the opportunity to reach their potential in STEM.

But we couldn’t deliver such impact without the support of our host volunteers.

Start to make a difference today by applying to host a student.

**Host a student**
Visit the link [here](#) for more information.

Contact Jo on:
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