

# In2STEM | Programme Summary

## 2024



Improving Social Mobility and Diversity in STEM

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a white lab coat and bright green nitrile gloves. They are holding a black and silver pipette, with their right hand on the plunger and their left hand on the tip. The background is slightly blurred, showing another person in a white lab coat and blue trousers. The overall scene is a laboratory or scientific setting.

## Our Mission

The In2STEM programme (formally In2science summer programme) supports Year 12 or S5/S6 students from disadvantaged and low-income backgrounds. The programme helps students gain the support, skills and experience needed to achieve their potential and progress to degrees, apprenticeships and careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

The young people we support are interested in pursuing STEM, but face barriers to their progression. These include a limited understanding of the careers available within the sector, a lack of friend and family connections to advise them and help them to access opportunities such as work experience, and inadequate support to produce successful applications for apprenticeships or degrees.

Our programme connects students to volunteers from different fields within STEM over the summer between Year 12 and Year 13 (or S5/S6 and your next educational step), the time when they are finalising their decisions about university or apprenticeships. Students receive insights and knowledge through in-person work experience and live online workshops. The In2scienceUK team works closely with its volunteers to develop and deliver engaging sessions. This support enables students of all backgrounds and abilities to build the skills, knowledge and confidence to produce successful applications and achieve their ambitions within STEM.

# In2STEM Students

## Student Eligibility

Our programme is free for students to participate in, and they also receive a bursary to cover their expenses. Students are required to fill out an application form, from which we short-list them. To be eligible for a place participants must meet the following criteria:

- Attend a non-fee paying and state-maintained school
- Be 16 or over and a current Year 12/S5/S6 or college student or equivalent
- Must be studying at least one STEM-related A-Level, BTEC or equivalent

In addition, students must also meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be a recipient of Free School Meals (FSM) in Year 11 or at sixth form (or equivalent)
- Have parents or carers with no higher education degree
- Current recipient of EMA or Pupil Premium or the 16-19 Bursary
- Have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) at school
- Currently are, or have ever been, in care, or students with caring responsibilities

Places are offered based on student disadvantage and suitable host availability.

# The 2023 Programme

- **Supported 809 young people from 361 schools across the UK:**
  - 71% were female, 27% were male, 2% were non-binary
  - 64% were eligible for free school meals
  - 11% had caring responsibilities
  - 5% are currently or have been in care
  - 81% were from minority ethnic groups
  - 80% had parents without university degrees
- **28 online workshops were delivered by 63 volunteers with attendance for all workshops totalling at 1737**
- **More than 250 hosts welcomed students into their workplace**



# In2STEM 2024

Catering to the interests and career aspirations of our participants, the 2024 In2STEM programme will deliver:

- **1 or 2 week in-person work placement.** Students will be matched in groups of up to three with a volunteer host whose work is of interest to them. They will spend 1 or 2 weeks at the host's workplace, building relationships and gaining experience and understanding to support them in making informed decisions about their own career pathway.
- **Online skills, employability and careers workshops.** A programme of webinars delivered by our partner organisations will provide support in skills such as personal statement writing, university admissions advice, CV writing and interview tips, university finance and STEM careers panels.
- **Public engagement competitions.** A chance for students to develop their skills in written and visual communication, have fun and win prizes!

In addition, to foster a collaborative environment the students also participate in:

- **Induction day.** Students will attend an in-person or online induction before the programme begins to meet their cohort and the In2scienceUK Team.
- **Celebration event.** To round off the programme, we will host in-person and online celebration events in recognition of the hard work from students and volunteers. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their experiences, network, and learn more about how In2scienceUK can support them in the future.
- **In2careers.** After the programme, students join our alumni community and gain access to our online In2careers platform. Here they can explore employability skills workshops, career guidance and many more exciting opportunities.



Induction days



1 or 2 week in-person placement



Online skills, employability and careers workshops



Public engagement competitions



Celebration event

# 2024 Programme Timeline

## VOLUNTEERS

### RECRUITMENT

Online volunteer applications open

Information asked for in the application:

- Personal details
- Your place of work
- Your area of expertise
- Placement availability and capacity
- Risks and sensitivities
- Consent

Volunteer applications close

**Extended deadline: 3 March**

### MATCHING

Applicants' expertise, location and availability matched to suitable student/s or notified otherwise

Admin requirements if matched:

- Complete risk assessment
- Read and adhere to our safeguarding policy
- DBS check carried out if necessary
- Any other additional requirements needed from workplace for access

### INDUCTION

Online training and induction

## PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Volunteers host work placements

Celebration event

## STUDENTS

### RECRUITMENT

Online student applications open

Applications require a teacher reference to verify student eligibility

Student applications close

**Extended deadline: 3 March**

### MATCHING

Students are shortlisted

Students matched to volunteer host in groups of approximately three and offered place on the programme

### INDUCTION

In-person and online induction days

## PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Student participation in placements, online workshops and competitions

Celebration event

October 2023

March 2024

April

May

June  
July

Late July

August

Late August

# In2STEM Programme Benefits

## Students

At In2scienceUK we are driven by our impact, and survey our participants before and after they take part in our programme. Key outcomes from 2023:

**90%**

Strongly agree/  
agree

“I know what it means to work in STEM”

**86%**

“The programme has made me more sure of my career aspirations”

**88%**

“I know a number of diverse careers I could enter with the degree or apprenticeship I am choosing”

“I cannot express how lovely my mentor was. The whole experience was absolutely fantastic and educational. The team I worked with was incredibly helpful, supportive, welcoming, patient and friendly. Everyone tried to include me as much as possible and I was constantly given very useful advice and guidance.

Because of this placement, I discovered some amazing interdisciplinary scientific branches. This experience has been eye-opening and has convinced me that my future path is in the scientific research community.”

**Giulia, 2023 Participant**

“This is our second year with In2scienceUK, it is still a joy to see young people from disadvantaged backgrounds being mentored. It is an honour to play this important role in facilitating these young people’s interests and passions. I have found the experience truly rewarding, working with these young people, and seeing their confidence and passion ignite has been an incredible sight to witness.”

**Dr Raymond Oppong, 2023 Host**

## Volunteers

Through contributing to our programme, we make it easy for volunteers to create a lasting impact on the lives of young people and be the role model they themselves would have wanted at their age.

### Volunteering with In2scienceUK you will:

- Receive expert training and support
- Gain skills and experience communicating with young people
- Be a role model and make a real difference
- Promote diversity and inclusion in STEM



Volunteers receive a certificate of participation which can be used as evidence of public engagement, and we can also write letters of recommendation.

**92%**  
of volunteers  
enjoyed hosting/  
mentoring  
students

**81%**  
would  
recommend  
hosting to a  
colleague



Visit our [website](#) or contact us at [hosts@in2scienceuk.org](mailto:hosts@in2scienceuk.org) for more information

**In2scienceUK** is a registered charity (1164821)  
and company (07706662) in England and Wales

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