

# Volunteer with In2STEM

2026



Get involved to support young people achieve success in STEM

**In<sup>2</sup>STEM**



## Our Mission

In2scienceUK empowers young people from low-income and under-resourced backgrounds, promoting diversity and inclusion to ensure the UK remains at the forefront of STEM industries.

## What is In2STEM?

In2STEM is the first step on the In2scienceUK journey, equipping Year 12 and S5/S6 students with the skills and experience to progress into post-16 education and employment, including university, apprenticeships, and training. The programme is free for all participants and they receive a bursary to cover their expenses. Through placements, workshops, and competitions, participants connect with STEM professionals and gain hands-on experience.

## Why is In2STEM important?

The young people we support are interested in pursuing STEM, but face barriers to their progression. They may have a limited understanding of the careers available, inadequate support to produce successful applications for their next steps, and/or face challenges in accessing opportunities.

In2STEM takes place when students are finalising their decisions about university, apprenticeships, and future employment. This support enables participants of all backgrounds and abilities to build the skills, knowledge and confidence to achieve their ambitions within STEM.

After completing the programme, participants continue to receive support via our Alumni Community and in future can access our In2research programme.

# Our Impact

At In2scienceUK we are driven by our impact, and survey our participants before and after they take part in our programmes. Here are some key outcomes from the 2025 In2STEM programme:

98%


Said they gained practical or professional skills during the programme that will support them in the future

94%

Said that the programme made them feel like they belong in a career in STEM

96%

Said that the programme increased their confidence in applying for a STEM degree or apprenticeship

In total **622** young people were supported in 2025. For a more detailed breakdown of the programme, please view our [Impact Report](#) 



My sister did In2STEM last year and said it was amazing. She said it would help me learn what studying and working in STEM would actually be like. I have never really understood what this would look like on a day to day basis. School is so different, because there you often sit and listen but on the placement we've immediately been able to experiment and practice what we've learnt! Without In2STEM, I don't know where I would have gained any of this practical experience or have any understanding of what coding would be like in a study or work situation.

It's great to meet likeminded individuals and has been really interesting learning how many different career paths there are."



- Aayan

2025 Participant

# How can I volunteer?

In2STEM can only run successfully with the generous support of our volunteers. If you're unable to volunteer yourself, please consider sharing this opportunity with your network.

The best way for young people to learn about STEM is to connect with professionals directly. Through In2STEM, we facilitate this in two main ways: as a Placement Host or Workshop Volunteer.

## 1 Placement Host

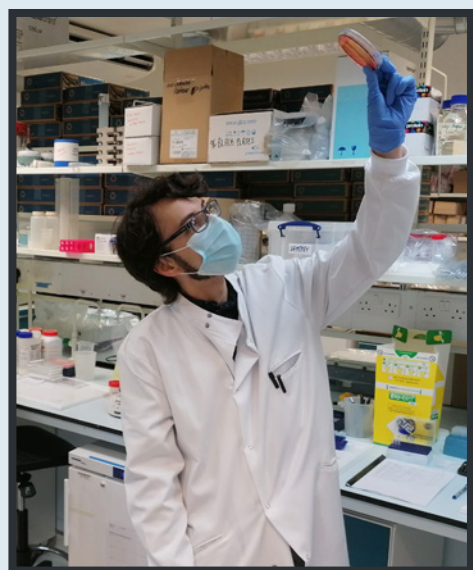
As a Placement Host, you can play a crucial role in providing students with exciting in-person STEM experiences. Collaborate closely with our team to create engaging placements, enabling students to explore STEM beyond the classroom, develop essential skills, and enhance their future applications.

**No previous experience is required and your involvement will make a lasting impact on our participants and the future of STEM.**

### Key Responsibilities

- Plan and deliver a placement at your workplace between 20 July - 21 August 2026. As part of the application, you input your availability, placement length (either one or two weeks) and ideal number of participants.
- Read and adhere to our code of conduct and safeguarding policy. Lead Hosts (the person submitting the application) should ensure that any Co-Hosts assisting with the placement also complete this.
- Complete any required administrative tasks, including conducting a risk assessment and notifying relevant staff (e.g. your head of department) about the placement.
- Inform us of any absences or safeguarding concerns during the placement.

The opportunity is open to any STEM professional employed by the proposed place of work. Placement Hosts can apply individually, with colleagues or as a larger group, on behalf of an organisation or department.



# Planning a placement

Activities will differ across STEM workplaces and there are no specific requirements for placement activities. The purpose is to help participants:

1. Understand your job, career journey and day-to-day work
2. Get to know more about the field you work in
3. Explore the range of roles within your team and the work they do - we want students to see the variety of positions and responsibilities.

You can choose timings to suit you and your schedule - we find a shorter day (e.g. 10:00-16:00) works well. We will assign students to your placement based on subject interest, location, and availability. With our support, you have the flexibility to design a placement experience that showcases your work and suits your team's capacity.

**Here are some activity ideas for inspiration:**

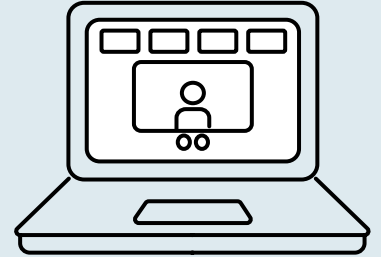
	Activity			
Science	Lab pipetting exercises	Wet lab talks (e.g. introduction to microbes or experimental design)	Tours of your facilities	Shadowing staff members' experiments
Technology	Discussions of new topics (e.g. Ethics in AI or healthcare technology)	Coding tasks and simple programme design	Demonstrations of robotics or programme development	Data analysis exercises
Engineering	Presentations (e.g. Carbon and Cost Intelligence)	Meet a specialist	Bridge or building design challenge	Equipment or process talk through
Maths	Calculus challenges	Asking students to present back a research article	Introductions to staff research specialisms	Introductions to new topics or concepts
General	CV Workshop	In2STEM competitions	UCAS: University Application Discussion	Leadership Workshop and 'Meet the Boss' Q&A

For more detailed example timetables, [click here](#) ↗

## 2 Workshop Volunteer

Our Workshop Volunteers play an important role in sharing expertise with students. Working alongside our team, you will help deliver online workshops that inspire students to explore STEM, develop key skills, and strengthen their future applications.

Previous Workshop Volunteers have included STEM professionals from industry and academia, as well as specialists in related fields such as Public Engagement, Outreach, and University Admissions. No formal STEM background is required - what matters is the ability to deliver content relevant to A level or S5/6 students interested in STEM.



Your contribution will make a lasting impact on participants and support the future of STEM.

### Key Responsibilities

- Plan and deliver a 45-minute online workshop, with an additional 15 minutes for questions. Previous workshops have included CV writing, interview skills, STEM communication and mock lectures.
- Read and adhere to our code of conduct and safeguarding policy.

We also host career panels where Workshop Volunteers give a five-minute introduction and answer questions about their career path.

Workshops and careers panels will be scheduled during the programme dates at a time that suits you, between Monday to Friday, 11am - 5pm. All workshops are recorded and shared with In2STEM participants.



This is the second time I've volunteered with In2STEM and I've loved it each time. I find it really rewarding, as I feel like I was such a confused young person about my career I can relate to their worries.

I also love hearing the other people in the panels! They are very inspiring to me too, and it makes me happy to see others thrive in careers they love. Getting the feedback from the young people was amazing, it really made my day."

- Carly

2025 Workshop leader

# Benefits of volunteering

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 In2STEM you will:

- Develop communication skills and gain experience engaging with young people.
- Inspire students as a role model and make a meaningful difference during a key part of their lives.
- Promote diversity and inclusion in STEM.
- View your work from a different perspective, helping to renew your passion for the subject.



- Mark

2025 Placement Host



My experience as an In2STEM volunteer has been extremely positive. It's one of those weeks in the academic calendar that I genuinely look forward to. The benefit has been twofold. First, the students have brought fresh perspectives and diverse insights, especially as they come from different backgrounds and regions across the North West. That variety enriches our research, giving us a more representative sample and helping us test ideas with wider relevance.

Second, their involvement helps us strengthen our outreach and engagement efforts. In2STEM allows us to bridge the gap between academic research and the wider community, while also supporting social mobility and creating role models for future students. It's also been useful for us to pilot certain activities, and see how young people respond to them in a semi-structured environment."

## To ensure you have a meaningful volunteering experience, we provide:

- Dedicated training and support.
- A comprehensive volunteering guide, online inductions for hosts, and tailored briefs for workshop leaders.
- A certificate of participation which can be used as evidence of public engagement, and we can also write letters of recommendation.

**90%**

of volunteers enjoyed hosting students\*

**100%**

of volunteers enjoyed leading a workshop\*

\* of post programme survey respondents

# How do I apply?



**To apply as a Placement Host**, you need to submit an application form. Our application form will ask you to provide:

- Personal details
- Your place of work
- A short bio outlining your expertise
- Some suggestions of what the placement will involve
- Placement availability and capacity
- Risks and sensitivities
- Consent

**Become a Host** [➔](#)

**To express interest as a Workshop Volunteer**, you should sign our EOI form and we'll be in touch. This is a short survey, requiring your name, contact details, and the subject of your proposed workshop.

**Lead a Workshop** [➔](#)

## For more information

If you are unsure about anything, please get in touch via [STEM@in2scienceuk.org](mailto:STEM@in2scienceuk.org)

You can also give us a call on +44 808 175 6766 or join an online information session. These sessions consist of a short presentation, followed by a Q&A. [Sign up here](#) [➔](#)

- Thursday 18 December, 2 - 3pm
- Wednesday 21 January, 2 - 3pm
- Thursday 19 February, 10 - 11am
- Tuesday 24 March, 12 - 1pm



# 2026 Programme Timeline

## RECRUITMENT (December - April)

**8 December** - Placement Host applications open

**8 December** - Workshop Volunteer registration opens

**December to March** - Volunteer information sessions

**5 April** - Placement Host applications close

Throughout the entire In2STEM programme timeline, Placement Hosts will have a dedicated regional officer to support them and answer any questions.

December  
2025

March  
2026

## MATCHING (April - May)

Placement Hosts are assigned students based on subject area, location, and availability. Any unmatched volunteer applicants will be notified.

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

April

May

June

## INDUCTIONS (June - July)

Placement Hosts are invited to online inductions and Workshop Volunteers are provided with a brief. After the training sessions, Hosts reach out to their students to introduce themselves and ensure that everyone is prepared ahead of the placement.

July

## PROGRAMME DELIVERY (20 July - 21 August)

Volunteers host work placements and deliver workshops.

The In2STEM team is available throughout delivery to provide quick support with any issues you face.

August

## CELEBRATION EVENT (Autumn)

Celebrate the successes of the In2STEM programme with volunteers and students from across the cohort.

Autumn



Visit our [website](https://www.in2scienceuk.org) or contact us at [STEM@in2scienceuk.org](mailto:STEM@in2scienceuk.org) for more information.

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

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