



**STEM  
AMBASSADORS**  
ILLUMINATING  
FUTURES

STEM Ambassadors Programme

# BECOME A STEM AMBASSADOR

STEM Ambassadors provide the link between employers and the workforce of tomorrow. This guide to volunteering shows how you can help inspire young people and safeguard the UK's pipeline of STEM talent and skills.

*“I wanted to show students how exciting STEM is, and hopefully convince them that studying maths and science will lead them to successful and rewarding careers in the future.”*

Roma Agrawal, STEM Ambassador, Structural Engineer at WSP

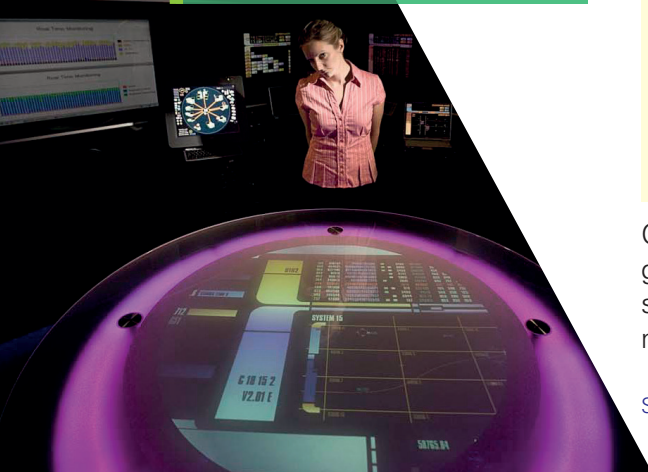
**90%** of pupils are more likely to be interested in continuing to study STEM subjects after engaging with STEM Ambassadors



**Throughout the UK, STEM Ambassadors enthuse and inspire young people in STEM subjects, and open the doors to a world of opportunity that begins with STEM.**

Through actively engaging with pupils and supporting teachers in the classroom, STEM Ambassadors provide living, working examples of how young people can apply STEM subjects to carve out interesting, successful and rewarding careers. Coming from a broad range of sectors, our STEM Ambassadors are engaging, enthusiastic, dedicated and committed, and continually change young people's perceptions about STEM careers, and about the types of people who work in those roles.

**71%** of pupils who have had contact with a STEM Ambassador say they enjoy Science – compared with only 55% of pupils in general



## Who can become a STEM Ambassador?

From environmental scientists, chemists and civil engineers to architects, pharmacists and computer programmers, STEM Ambassadors come from any industry or sector that uses STEM skills and knowledge. Across the UK, well over half of our STEM Ambassadors are aged 35 and under; 40% are female and 13% are black and minority ethnic. In short, anyone who uses STEM skills, enjoys volunteering, and wants to share their enjoyment and enthusiasm for their subject with young people can register to become a STEM Ambassador.



## What impact will I have?

You'll be able to:

- Support teachers by demonstrating the practical application of the STEM curriculum in the world of work
- Encourage pupils to consider STEM qualifications and careers – 33% more pupils want a job in STEM after direct contact with a STEM Ambassador
- Contribute to improved progression in STEM subjects – 75% of pupils who've engaged with a STEM Ambassador say they are doing well in Science
- Develop confidence, team-work, presentation skills and creativity in young people – all essential for success in the workplace, whatever the field

Our STEM Ambassadors tell us that volunteering doesn't just give them a sense of achievement, but it also develops their own self-confidence and communication skills, improving their own motivation and job satisfaction.

STEM Ambassador: Niamh Hyslop, Business Analyst, BT

## What would I be able to do if I became a STEM Ambassador?

How much or how little time and how many or how few activities you engage in is entirely up to you. Some of our STEM Ambassadors prefer to respond to specific requests from teachers; others choose to contact their local schools with ideas for how they may help; and others get involved with after-school STEM Clubs; so you can choose any volunteering opportunity near to where you work or live, facilitated by STEMNET.

From helping at careers fairs or providing technical support in the classroom to supporting hands-on practical activities in a STEM Club and judging school STEM competitions, the possibilities for positive impact are endless.

All we ask is that you commit to a minimum of one activity a year – every moment of which we know will make a difference.

## How do I become a STEM Ambassador?

If you are over the age of 17 and have skills or interest in any STEM subject all you have to do is to register as a STEM Ambassador online at:

[www.stemnet.org.uk](http://www.stemnet.org.uk)

Then, you'll need to attend a two-to three-hour induction run by your local STEMNET Contract Holder. A Contract Holder is one of many partner organisations that deliver STEMNET's

programmes on the ground locally. Contract Holders work closely with schools and regularly meet with teachers to encourage and manage requests for STEM Ambassadors.

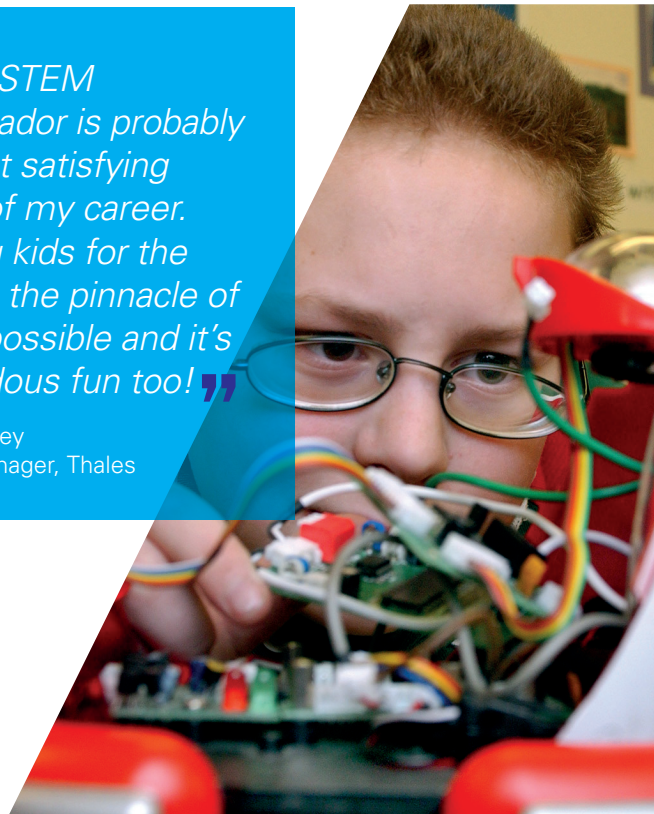
Your induction with your local Contract Holder will explain the types of activity you can get involved with and how you can stay informed about opportunities. You'll also receive lots of tips and advice on working with schools and young people.

You'll need to complete an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check; or in Scotland you'll register with the PVG Scheme, administered by Disclosure Scotland. These checks are a mandatory requirement for all STEM Ambassadors and are one of the reasons why schools place their trust in STEMNET and the STEM Ambassadors Programme.

With your DBS/PVG check and induction complete, we'll issue you with a STEM Ambassador ID card and badge – and then you're ready to start volunteering!

“*Being a STEM Ambassador is probably the most satisfying aspect of my career. Inspiring kids for the future is the pinnacle of what's possible and it's tremendous fun too!*”

Derek Langley  
Product Manager, Thales







**75%** of pupils who have had contact with a STEM Ambassador believe that they are doing well at Science, compared with only 62% of pupils in general

## Support for STEM Ambassadors

We want our STEM Ambassadors to become confident and enthusiastic volunteers who enjoy making the most of their involvement with STEMNET. To this end, we invite and listen to your feedback and we provide additional training, helpful toolkits, examples of good practice, and case studies – all with the aim of supporting you in the invaluable work you do for young people.

Online resources provide ideas for practical STEM activities, as well as sharing videos uploaded by your fellow brilliant and inspiring STEM Ambassadors. Newsletters containing volunteering opportunities and news in your area, as well as invitations to local networking events where you can meet other STEM Ambassadors and teachers, are all part of the package.

Finally, talk to your employer and ask for their support, too. The Programme is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and is already championed by employers in every part of the UK – your business should be proud to have you as a STEM Ambassador.

To find out more or to register as a STEM Ambassador, please visit the STEMNET website: **[www.stemnet.org.uk](http://www.stemnet.org.uk)**

Or follow us on **Twitter @STEMNET**

Join the **STEMNET LinkedIn Group** for more discussion and ideas.

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For further information visit **[www.stemnet.org.uk](http://www.stemnet.org.uk)**

### STEMNET

2nd floor, Weston House,  
246 High Holborn,  
London, WC1V 7EX

**T** 020 3206 0450

**E** [info@stemnet.org.uk](mailto:info@stemnet.org.uk)

 Follow us on Twitter @STEMNET

