

The STEM Ambassador Programme –

A Guide for Employers

How can your organisation get involved?

‘Good for the company; good for the volunteers; and most importantly, good for the young people supported by these volunteers’

Ian Duffy,
Manager of UK 5–19 Education Programmes, BP

STEM
AMBASSADORS
ILLUMINATING
FUTURES



‘People, their lives and the work they do, are the richest and most respected resource for learning about careers. Whilst a proportion of young people are attracted to science and technology for itself, many are interested first in the people (role models etc)’

Report by the Centre for Education and Industry



Building Business – Education links that work

Just about every company or organisation relies on people with science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) skills, and these people represent a vast array of professions. STEM subjects underpin innovation, creativity and prosperity. Many businesses are keen to play their part in ensuring that young people in schools and colleges get the opportunity to find out for themselves just what an amazing range of careers are open to people who have studied STEM subjects. This is what the STEM Ambassadors Programme can help your organisation to do.

The STEM Ambassadors Programme

25,000 people are active as STEM Ambassadors. The Programme enables anyone with STEM skills to inspire young people and demonstrate how essential STEM is in every part of the world of work. The occupations of STEM Ambassadors are wide ranging, including environmental scientists, civil engineers, marine biologists, medical physicists, apprentices, professors, digital designers, financial modellers, energy analysts and cytogeneticists. Anyone who uses STEM in their work can apply to be a STEM Ambassador.

The Programme is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and is already supported by employers in every part of the UK, who encourage their staff to become STEM Ambassadors as part of their outreach and CSR activities. Supporting organisations range from multi-nationals to SMEs and include private, public and not-for-profit sectors.

‘As a company with over 600 active STEM Ambassadors, we work closely with STEMNET to enthuse and engage young people in STEM subjects’

Nicola Swaney,
Education Manager, Rolls Royce

The Programme aims to:

- Excite young people about STEM.
- Give teachers a unique perspective on how the STEM curriculum can be demonstrated in the world of work.
- Encourage young people to consider STEM careers and qualifications.
- Contribute to improved academic achievement in STEM subjects.
- Develop other employability skills like confidence, team-work, presentation and creativity.

What STEM Ambassadors do

The Ambassadors are provided with opportunities which fit with their own skills and availability and include a wide range of activities, such as giving careers talks, helping with projects in after-school STEM Clubs or challenge days and judging competitions. They also support and inspire teachers in the classroom and help them update their knowledge of contemporary science, technology and research processes. The variety of activities and the impact they have is huge.



Benefits to employers through supporting the STEM Ambassadors Programme

The STEM Ambassadors Programme is an ideal platform to support your community outreach and CSR activities. Ambassadors from your company can represent the industry and your organisation in a variety of ways.

In addition, the Programme can help your business to:

- Challenge stereotypes about the career paths of people with STEM skills and thus encourage new recruits.
- Develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of young people – potential future employees – about how STEM is used in the real world.
- Contribute ideas to teachers about topics and activities to include in the STEM curriculum.
- Tap into the creative thinking of young people.
- Enhance your reputation in the local community.
- Provide career development opportunities for your staff through strengthening communication, planning and presentation skills.
- Motivate, engage and retain staff.

Your employees will benefit from being Ambassadors through:

- Enjoying a sense of achievement.
- Gaining fresh perspective on day-to-day work when seen through the eyes of students.
- Helping to make a difference in the local community.
- Developing new skills and confidence.

The STEM Ambassadors Programme is coordinated nationally by STEMNET and managed locally by a network of sub-regional partners.

Visit www.stemnet.org.uk for more information on:

- The Programme itself.
- Details of how to get involved and the local partner who will work with you and your staff to get the best out of the Programme.
- Examples of how other organisations and their employees have benefited from being part of the Programme.

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‘The National Physical Laboratory has a strong Corporate Social Responsibility programme, and STEM Ambassadors activities are an important part of this. They have helped us develop links and earn an excellent reputation with local communities. The Programme leads to enhanced job satisfaction for those staff involved in it and it gives them a great opportunity to share our passion for science with the next generation’

Andrew Hanson,
Outreach manager, NPL

For further information visit
www.stemnet.org.uk

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