



Your guide to becoming a STEM Ambassador

Find out how to join the largest STEM volunteering cohort in the UK



Funded by



UK Research
and Innovation

POWERED BY **STEM** LEARNING



Contents

Background

Welcome to STEM Ambassadors	3
Programme Background	4
Who is STEM Learning?	4

Who are STEM Ambassadors?

Who are STEM Ambassadors?	5
What can you do as a STEM Ambassador?	6

Why become a STEM Ambassador?

Benefits	7
Impact	7

Training and Support

Training	8
Community	8

Signing Up

How do you sign up?	9
DBS or PVG checks	10
Finding your first volunteering opportunity	10

Getting involved as part of a group

Partnering	11
Schemes	11

Important information

Volunteers Code of Conduct	12
Safeguarding	12
Health and Safety	12
Insurance	12

Finding support

Frequently asked questions	13
Contact details	13
Local Support	13

Welcome

Dear future STEM Ambassador,

Thank you for considering volunteering your time and passion to inspire the next generation. By sharing your experiences and enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, you'll be helping young people across the UK see the value of STEM in their own lives – and the exciting futures it can open up.

If you're thinking about getting involved, we'd love to have you join this incredible community of passionate volunteers. Your insight, energy and experience will make a lasting difference.

Your commitment not only sparks curiosity and confidence in young people but also supports teachers and builds a more diverse, creative and skilled future workforce. The STEM Ambassadors programme is a true national treasure – powered by volunteers like you.

Thank you for helping us inspire the innovators and problem-solvers of tomorrow for a more sustainable future.

Séverine Trouillet, Chief Executive, STEM Learning



STEM Learning and programme background

Programme background

Since 2002, the STEM Ambassadors programme has supported thousands of amazing volunteers to bring real-life examples of STEM skills and careers into schools, colleges and universities across the UK. Volunteers help to break stereotypes and offer engaging activities to inspire the next generation into the infinite possibilities of STEM pathways.



The STEM Ambassadors programme is powered by STEM Learning and funded by UK Research and Innovation.

Who is STEM Learning?

At STEM Learning, our vision is to improve lives through STEM education. Through the STEM Ambassadors programme, teacher training courses, quality-assured learning resources and Destination STEM, we are dedicated to empowering young people with the skills and knowledge to thrive.

We work in collaboration with the UK Government, employers large and small, organisations and educational establishments to deliver positive STEM interactions for teachers, young people and beyond.

We're particularly grateful to our key funders, many of which have been with us on our journey since 2004: UK Research and Innovation, Gatsby, and Wellcome.



Who are STEM Ambassadors?

STEM Ambassadors are people like you! Positive role models who give their time and enthusiasm for free to bring science, technology, engineering and mathematics to life and demonstrate their value to young people aged 5-19.

There are thousands of STEM Ambassadors across the UK, who come from diverse backgrounds and a range of specialisms. Anyone aged 17 or over, living in the UK, with a passion for sharing their knowledge can become a STEM Ambassador, and you don't need to work in STEM to join!

By sharing your knowledge, experiences, and skills, you'll inspire students and demonstrate real-life applications of learning. Whether you're driven by innovations that make real world change, or passionate about the power of STEM research and knowledge, your unique perspective can help spark curiosity and ambition in young people. All STEM Ambassadors are provided with an enhanced DBS or PVG certificate and volunteer for free with schools and community groups across the UK.

“What we've learnt from working with STEM Ambassadors is the importance of role models. It's really powerful for young people to see somebody in front of them; to see a pathway, whether that's to a career or a particular lifestyle, or choice that they can aspire to. We've been able to show real diversity of age and gender to those young people and I don't think we could have done that without the STEM Ambassador programme.”

– **Community Group Leader**



What can you do as a STEM Ambassador?

There are many ways to get involved as a STEM Ambassador! You can choose what suits your skills, interests, and availability. We only ask that you do one volunteering activity per year to remain an active STEM Ambassador. If you can do more, we would really appreciate it – as will the young people and teachers you are supporting!

What STEM Ambassadors think:

“

“Being able to volunteer as a STEM Ambassador is one of the best and most fun parts of my job.”

”

“

“Volunteering has improved my ability to cope with unexpected questions and think on my feet.”

”

“

“I have met people from other companies and fields and expanded my network.”

”

“

“Being a STEM Ambassador has improved my sense of job satisfaction because it delivers a real, tangible benefit to the local community and the future of STEM professions.”

”

Some of the things you could do include:

Presenting talks or activities about your STEM career or area of expertise.



Sharing how research in your field or sector has helped real people.



Contributing written or recorded content to inspire others about STEM.



Supporting events such as mock interviews, competitions, or judging panels.



Engaging young people by inviting them to your workplace or running STEM clubs and outreach activities.



Upskilling yourself by taking part in training and development to enhance your volunteering impact.



Mentoring individuals or small groups over time, offering support and advice.



Influencing school policy and raising awareness of STEM careers by working with educators.



Showing how innovations in your industry have changed our daily lives.



Why become a STEM Ambassador?

As a STEM Ambassador, you'll enjoy a range of personal and professional benefits while making a real impact.

The benefits

Inspire the next generation:

By volunteering, you'll help young people see the value and relevance of STEM in their lives, opening their eyes to exciting career possibilities.

Break stereotypes:

Share your story and show that STEM is for everyone. Your unique perspective helps build a more diverse and innovative future workforce.

Grow your skills:

Develop confidence in communication, leadership, mentoring, and public speaking – skills that will benefit you in any career.

Connect and collaborate:

Join a vibrant community of professionals, educators, and organisations all dedicated to improving STEM education. You'll expand your network and learn from others.

Give back to your community:

Support local schools and groups, helping young people discover new possibilities and reach their potential.

Impact

The STEM Ambassadors programme makes a real impact on young people. Research shows that interacting with a STEM Ambassador transforms young people's perceptions of STEM subjects and careers.

Read more about the impact of STEM Ambassadors on our website and in [STEM Learning's latest Impact Report](#).

Read about our impact



“

“Having the STEM Ambassadors come into school has been really engaging for the children. Just having other people from outside of school come in and inspire our children has been brilliant. They were spot on with the activities that they did too!”

– Teacher

”



“

“It has given STEM a bigger profile, it has helped engage more girls in STEM, [and] it has made students more confident in their career choices/aspirations.”

– Teacher

”

What training and support is available?

Training

As a STEM Ambassador, you'll have access to a wide range of resources and training sessions, designed to support and inspire you throughout your volunteering journey. Here's a glimpse of what you can explore:

Resource library & collections:

Discover bite-sized guides and activity ideas, including ready-made presentation ideas and inclusive practice and language guides; perfect for sparking new ideas or brushing up on your skills.

Live support sessions:

Join interactive online sessions focused on practical skills, such as "How to explain your job to an 8-year-old" or "Volunteering in SEND settings". These sessions offer the chance to ask questions, share experiences, and connect with other Ambassadors.

E-learning courses:

Complete our self-led, online e-learning courses, designed to improve your communication skills, promote diversity and develop meaningful relationships with young people.

Community

There's something for everyone on the STEM Ambassadors Community, whether you're a new to the programme or have been volunteering with us for years. The Community is a sister site to the STEM Ambassadors digital platform – a place for you to connect with other Ambassadors, join groups with similar interests and keep updated with news from the STEM Ambassadors team.



Signing up as a STEM Ambassador

The registration process

You can sign up as a STEM Ambassador by registering on the **STEM Learning website** and choosing 'STEM Ambassador' as your account type. The registration process takes approximately 5 minutes. During the process, you'll receive an email with a verification link - please click the link to confirm your email address.

After verifying your email, you can log into your account on the STEM Ambassadors platform to begin your induction. This includes:

- A short safeguarding test
- Agreeing to the STEM Ambassadors Code of Conduct
- Filling out your profile information

The induction should take around 30 minutes in total.

If you are based in England or Wales, you will receive a link to begin your DBS application, typically within 2 working days of completing your induction. The time your DBS takes can vary depending on the documents you have available. Part of the process involves verifying

your documents through a secure online app. Once submitted, your DBS certificate typically arrives within 2 weeks.

If you're based in Scotland or Northern Ireland, the process differs slightly. In Northern Ireland, DBS applications managed by AccessNI. In Scotland, you will complete a PVG application, managed by Disclosure Scotland, rather than a DBS. For these applications, our support team will guide you through the steps when the time comes.

Find out more about DBS checks in:

England and Wales →

Northern Ireland →

Scotland →

Your DBS certificate will be valid for 3 years from the date of approval.

If you previously signed up to be a STEM Ambassador but have not been involved in a while, get in touch with us at SAregistration@stem.org.uk and we'll let you know how to reactivate your account!



Frequently asked questions about DBS or PVG checks

10



What is a DBS/PVG check?

A DBS check is a criminal record check for those living in England and Wales, provided by the UK's Disclosure and Barring Service. In your role as a STEM Ambassador, you will receive an Enhanced DBS Certificate for the Child Workforce, which will contain details of both spent and unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings that are held on the Police National Computer, which are not subject to filtering.

In Northern Ireland, the DBS check is issued by AccessNI.

In Scotland, you will complete a PVG application, managed by Disclosure Scotland.



How does the application work?

The DBS application and Digital ID check is a simple process that takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. You'll receive a link to start your online DBS application, then you will need to download the Trust ID App onto a mobile phone or a tablet and provide the required information and documents.



What documents do I need for my application?

To complete the Digital ID check and get through the DBS application you are required to have either of the following:

- › An ePassport (commonly known as a biometric passport, the one with a chip inside)
- › A Biometric National ID Card (EU/EEA/Swiss)

If you do not have either of these documents, you will need to complete an in-person ID check at one of our 12 sites across the UK. Further details on this will be explained when needed.



How long does it take?

Completing the digital DBS application takes roughly 20 minutes, then, once approved, your certificate will be posted to your home address within 14 days of approval.



What do I do when my certificate arrives?

Check your DBS certificate arrives within 14 days of approval. If it doesn't, you can request a re-print from the DBS service, but this must be within 90 days of approval.

We strongly recommend that you register your DBS certificate with the Update Service here within 28 days of the issue date of this certificate. As your certificate is valid for three years, registering means you will not need to go through the full application process again after this time. Please note, you will need to log in to the membership account you create with the Update Service every 6 months to retain membership.



What if my DBS/PVG has reports on it or I have past criminal convictions?

If your DBS or PVG has a record, a Manager from the STEM Ambassadors Programme will arrange a meeting. You'll need to provide the original certificate and answer questions. The Manager, with input from others, will decide on your suitability to become a STEM Ambassador.

Finding your first volunteering opportunity

Finding volunteering opportunities is simple through our dedicated digital platform! Teachers in your local area will post requests for STEM Ambassadors, that you can browse and express interest in if you think it would be a good fit. Or you could post your own activity that you'd like to offer and have local teachers register their interest in you.

You might also take part in volunteering opportunities found outside of the STEM Ambassadors Platform through direct contact with schools, colleges and community groups, or through other organisations. These also count towards your impact as a STEM Ambassador and can be logged on the digital platform.



Getting involved as part of a group

Partnering with the STEM Ambassadors programme

If your organisation is interested in learning more about the STEM Ambassadors Programme or STEM Learning, there are many ways to get involved.



Participating in the programme offers a range of benefits for employers, including:



Enhancing your organisation's CSR and ESG (Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental, Social and Governance) profile



Making a positive impact in your local community



Accessing new skills and experiences for your employees



Building a strong talent pipeline for the future



Boosting your organisation's brand awareness

These opportunities not only support your business objectives but also contribute to inspiring the next generation of STEM professionals.

More information is available on our website, and organisations interested in getting involved can contact the STEM Learning Skills and Partnerships Team at partnersupport@stem.org.uk

Have you been suggested to sign up by your employer?

You can link your account to your organisation through the Employment and Schemes tab on your profile. Make sure you tick the box to allow your employer to see the great volunteering work you are doing!

Schemes

If you are interested in making an even bigger impact through collective action you may want to think about linking to one of our schemes. A scheme is a way to link your profile to a particular area of interest or sector. Once linked to a scheme, you may hear from the scheme organiser about activities and events that align with the scheme. Some schemes also provide extra training sessions, resources and support to help with your volunteering.

Some of our biggest schemes include:

- > Climate Ambassadors
- > Computing Ambassadors
- > Space Inspirations
- > GoConstruct Ambassadors
- > Research & Innovation Ambassadors

Keeping safe

Volunteers Code of Conduct

As part of becoming an approved STEM Ambassador, you will be asked to sign our STEM Ambassador Agreement. This sets out our guidelines for your standard of behaviour, responsibilities and best practice in fulfilling your role within the STEM Ambassadors programme.

Safeguarding

Another part of becoming an approved STEM Ambassador is completing your safeguarding training. Safeguarding is ensuring that children are protected from maltreatment; preventing impairment of young people's health and development, ensuring they grow up with the provision of safe and effective care, and taking any action required to ensure they have the best outcomes. This means doing everything in the best interests of young people. Anyone who works with or volunteers with children has a duty of care to keep them safe.

Health & Safety

We expect all STEM Ambassadors to contribute to a safe volunteering environment and comply with health and safety requirements. You need to discuss and more importantly agree to any health and safety requirements, and any risk assessment procedures with the activity organiser in advance of your volunteering.

Insurance

Approved STEM Ambassadors who are taking part in an activity organised through the STEM Ambassadors platform are covered by our STEM Ambassadors Programme Insurance. More information on this can be found on the Community, once you are an approved STEM Ambassador.

“

“Becoming a STEM Ambassador has been one of the best things I've done in my career so far, and something I should have been doing years ago!”

– STEM Ambassador

”



Finding support

Frequently asked questions

Looking for answers your questions? You can find a selection of frequently asked questions about the STEM Ambassadors programme here:

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) →

Where to find support

If your question is not answered in the FAQs above, our STEM Ambassador Support Team is here to help:

For questions about **signing up, account issues, and DBS/PVG applications or renewals** please contact SAregistration@stem.org.uk

For questions about the **programme**, please contact stem-ambassadors@stem.org.uk

For **IT problems** please contact support@stem.org.uk with screen shots if possible.

If you represent your **company or organisation** and would like to get in touch to discuss your organisation's **engagement with the STEM Ambassador programme**, please contact partnersupport@stem.org.uk

To speak to someone on the phone (between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays), please contact: **01904 949702**

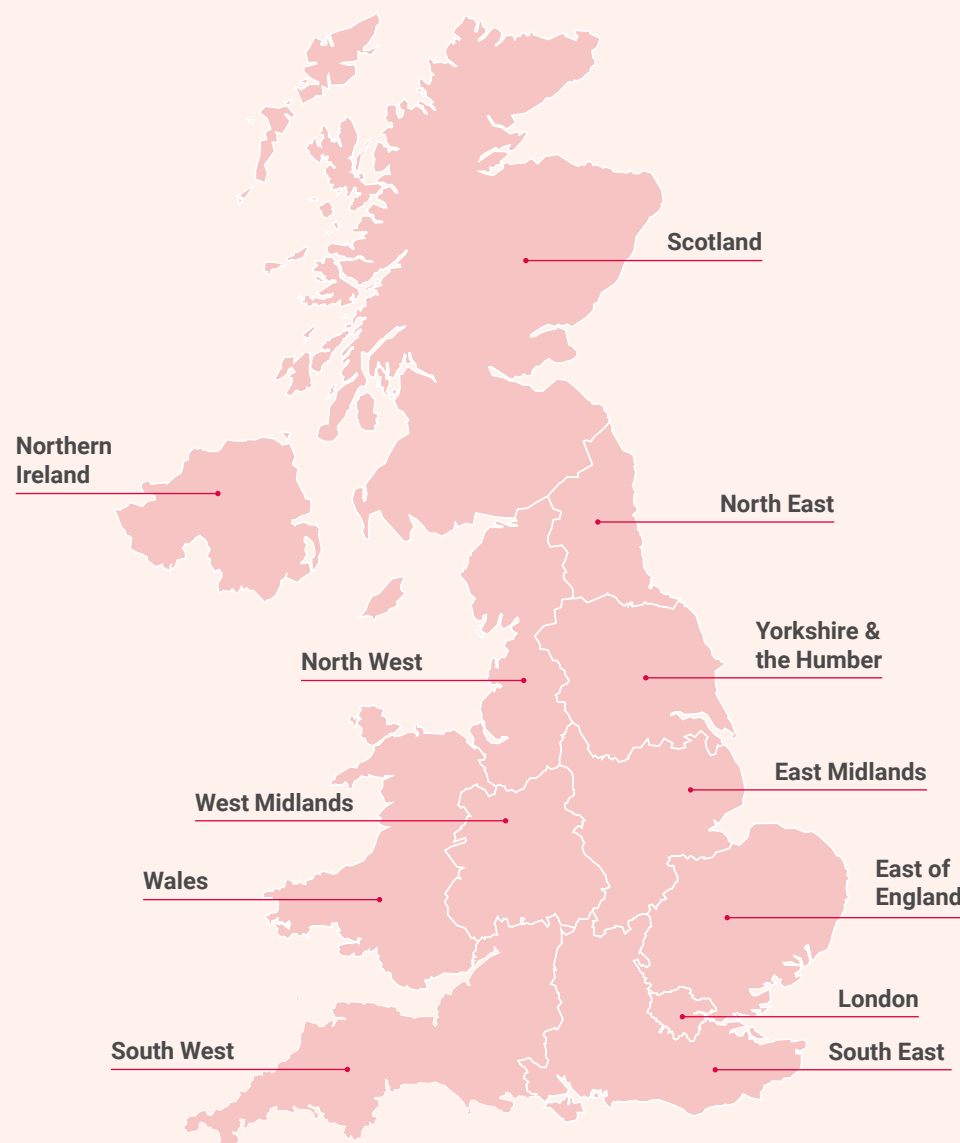
Local support

STEM Ambassador Delivery Partners

We have a fantastic **network of 12 STEM Ambassador Delivery Partners** who help us coordinate the volunteering opportunities for STEM Ambassadors across the UK, focusing on making an impact in their local area. If you have a question specific to activities in your local area please contact the Delivery Partner for your region below.

[STEM Ambassador partners](#) →

Map of regions





STEM Learning



STEM Ambassadors



Follow us on 

Follow us on 

Funded by



UK Research
and Innovation

POWERED BY **STEM** LEARNING

