

## Research Placements & Experiences Executive Summary 2023/24

For over 25 years, Research Placements & Experiences have supported students from across the UK to develop a wide range of skills through engaging, industry placements. Today, the programme continues to provide opportunities for year 12 (or equivalent) students from disadvantaged backgrounds to take part in authentic and meaningful STEM and STEM-related projects, gaining a unique experience through their participation.

470 research and 157 experience placement students filled in a post-placement survey which captured their experience and personal development. Evaluation from the 2023/24 cycle of students revealed extremely positive feedback:

***"I got to see how science is used in the real world and learn about so many new career options that I never knew existed."***

***"The experience helped me grow as a person and become more self-reliant."***

In addition, evaluation from both research and experience placement students revealed that:

- **Satisfaction was high:** 94% of students were satisfied with their experience, and 96% would recommend the programme to other students.
- **Students feel more confident:** 96% of students said that their placement experience positively influenced their confidence in their own abilities.
- **Students develop transferable skills:** 91% of students agreed that their placement experience positively influenced their problem-solving skills and their ability to work as a member of a team.
- **Students develop research skills:** 98% of research placement students agreed that their placement experience positively influenced their confidence in data collection and analysis.
- **Placements help shape future plans:** 81% of students said that participation had impacted their future plans, with 54% agreeing it confirmed they were happy with their plans, a further 22% reporting it helped them decide which option was right for them and 5% reporting it made them change their future plans.

Students revealed that taking part in a placement helped them decide which course to study at university:

***"I loved how much freedom I had with creating my research report and poster. It allowed me to see what researchers get up to, and the process helped me decide what course I want to take at university."***

74 research and 29 experience placement providers filled in a post-placement survey which captured their experience and information on how their students had progressed.

Evaluation from the 2023/24 cycle of placement providers revealed similarly positive feedback:

***"I actually think the scheme is excellent in that it offers the flexibility for students to be supported and lead on their own research projects."***

In addition, evaluation from both research and experience placement providers revealed that:

- **Satisfaction was high:** 98% of providers would recommend the programme to others.
- **Providers feel personal benefits:** 76% of providers felt a sense of achievement, reward and satisfaction, and 65% said it developed their coaching, mentoring and management skills.
- **Placements engage the public:** 84% of providers reported that participating in the programme fulfilled public engagement, widening participation or corporate responsibility goals.
- **Providers support students:** 96% of students agreed that their placement provider was supportive and knowledgeable about the subject of their placement.
- **Providers help students develop transferable skills:** 100% of experience placement providers saw students develop their confidence in presenting and 94% of experience placement providers saw students develop their motivation and time management skills. 92% of research placement providers saw students develop their time management and problem-solving skills.

Placement providers were very pleased with the suitability of the students they were matched with:

***"The students were well-matched to the project that was offered, and they were well-prepared. I was very pleased with the quality of the students and the support from the Project Coordinator."***

***"I was very impressed with the calibre and aptitude of the student and welcome opportunities to provide placements in the future based on this experience."***



If you're interested in encouraging students to receive life-changing experiences, learn more by visiting the [STEM Learning website](#).

