



Nuffield Research Placements 2021/22: Executive Summary

Nuffield Research Placements provide a unique opportunity for Year 12 (or equivalent) students facing barriers to progressing into a STEM career to participate in live, hands-on STEM-related research in collaboration with an expert provider. They allow students to experience an authentic STEM workplace and contribute to a real research project, all while developing personal and professional skills. The programme is currently funded by the Nuffield Foundation with support from UK Research and Innovation, and has run for over two decades. Since 2020 it has been delivered by STEM Learning, with the 2021/22 academic year's cycle seeing 969 students placed in 203 organisations.

Evaluation from the 2021/22 cycle revealed extremely positive feedback from students, teachers, and providers alike:

- **Satisfaction was high:** 94% of students were satisfied with their experience, and 95% would recommend the programme to other students.
- **Teachers and providers recommend the programme:** 100% of teachers and 98% of providers would recommend Nuffield Research Placements.
- **Students feel more confident and motivated:** over 90% of teachers agreed that the placement improved students' motivation and confidence in their abilities.
- **Placements engage the public:** 81% of providers reported that participating in NRP fulfilled public engagement, widening participation or corporate responsibility goals.
- **Providers feel personal benefits:** 74% of providers felt a sense of achievement, reward and satisfaction, and 64% said it developed their coaching, mentoring and management skills.
- **Placements support students' applications:** 98% of students from the 2021 cohort said that participation supported their applications for jobs and further study.
- **Placements help to shape future plans:** 83% of students said that participation had impacted their future plans, over a quarter of which said it helped them to decide which option was right for them.

“ I really enjoyed being able to work as a team and participate in extremely relevant and innovative research. I believe this will really benefit me in the future no matter which career path I pursue. ”
Student

Visit the [STEM Learning website](https://www.stem.org.uk) for more information about Nuffield Research Placements, and read the full report [here](#).