

Research Placements and Experiences

Programme summary

Introduction

Research Placements and Experiences are engaging, real-life workplace experiences, where talented year 12 (or equivalent) students are placed at the heart of a UK host organisation.

They are a fantastic opportunity for students to apply skills and knowledge learned at school in professional environments as well as develop their Careers Capital, working alongside research and industry experts across a range of STEM sectors.

STEM = **S**cience inc. social science, **T**echnology inc. computing, **E**ngineering, or **M**aths.

We support students solely from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds from right across the UK and our programme has evolved to now offer two opportunities to better meet the needs of young people and those who host them.

What are the opportunities?

Both placement models support young people via: -

- an independent study support package consisting of online module assignments designed to develop their essential professional, research, data and numeracy skills and
- a timetable of optional supplementary workshops and webinars that are geared towards careers guidance and training on key topics e.g., Python programming language

before they begin their work at the host organisation which can either last 5 days or 2 weeks.

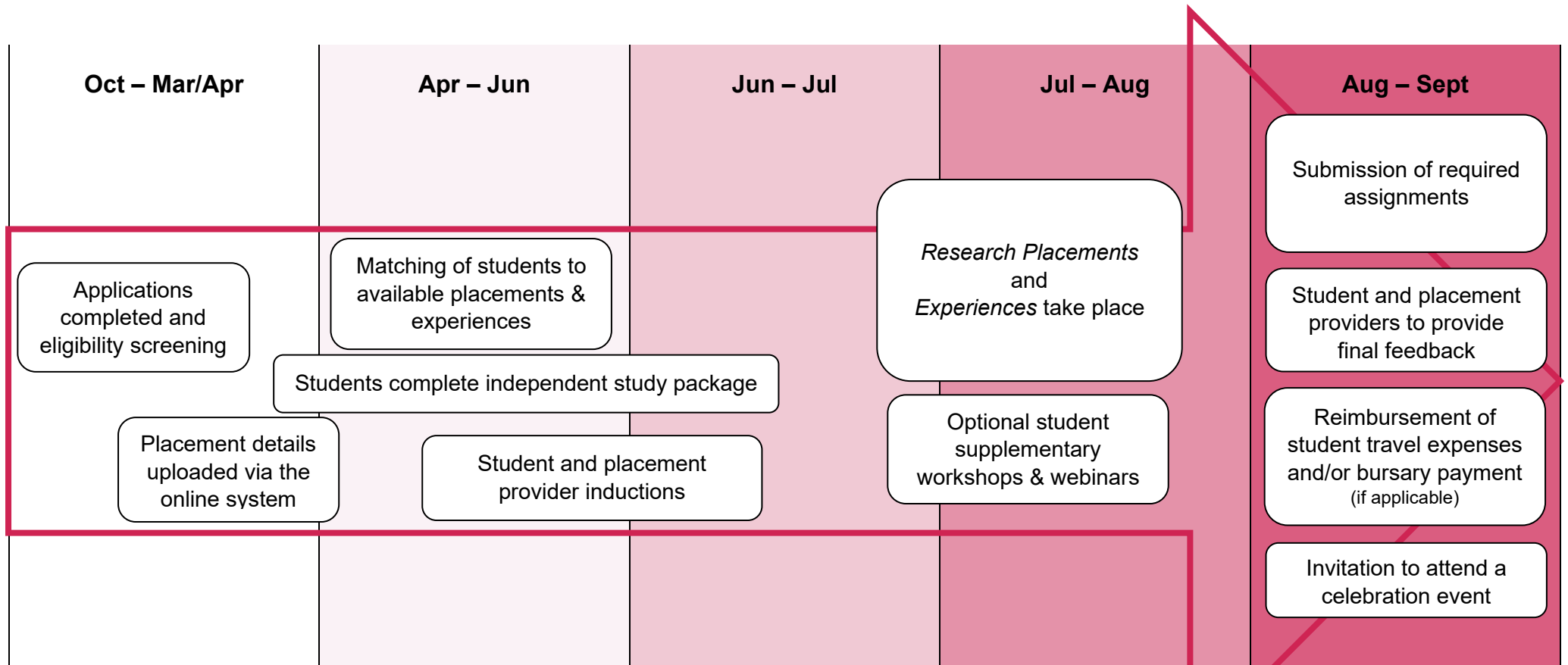
You can find more information in the table below.

	Research Placement	Experiences
Overview of activity	Collaboration with a STEM-related knowledge expert on a live research question or area of development.	Exploration with industry experts to identify the STEM and essential skills needed for employment in STEM sectors.
Aim	<p>Develop young people's essential STEM skills.</p> <p>Provide them with a valuable insight into working in professional environments.</p> <p>Ensure their outputs provide a meaningful contribution to host organisation's current work.</p>	<p>Increase young people's career-related knowledge and the challenges facing different sectors.</p> <p>Develop their skills for sustainable employment within STEM sectors.</p> <p>Provide a valuable insight into working in professional environments.</p>
How long is it?	2 weeks	5 days
What do students produce?	Scientific or technical report & poster	Workbook & reflective report

	Research Placement	Experiences
What does it involve?	<p>Young people should be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enthusiastic and curious • Ready to challenge and stretch themselves • Committed to travelling to their host organisation for at least 5 days • Excited to develop new skills & increase their understanding of different careers 	
	<p>Placement providers will need to be ready with a research topic/question related to their field and offer supervision that bridges the gap between school/college and Higher Education or employment.</p>	<p>Placement providers will need to be ready to provide the students with the opportunity to explore, investigate and experience the skills needed to be successful in their sector, encouraging and supporting the reflective learning process.</p>
Why should you take part?	<p>For young people, participation means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A meaningful and rewarding experience that will challenge and develop their critical thinking, planning, time management and communication skills. ✓ Valuable opportunities to work with sector experts and a chance to find out more about different career pathways. ✓ Increased confidence when working in novel, professional environments and situations. ✓ Unique examples to use in Higher Education and employment applications. ✓ Identification of the skills needed to gain sustainable employment within a STEM sector. ✓ Insights into STEM industries and the diverse opportunities that are available. 	
	<p>For placement providers, participation means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Supporting and inspiring the next generation and future STEM workforce. ✓ Receiving invaluable assistance and fresh insights into current working practices. ✓ Key opportunities for professional development of staff. ✓ Fulfilling public engagement, widening participation & CSR goals. ✓ Enhancing institutional reputation by working with top students. 	

You can also find a programme timeline on the next page.





“I have been able to gain so many skills that will stay with me for life and that I can use in the future. I have so many good words for this placement, it has been life changing.”

Research Placement student

For any questions relating to Research Placements & Experiences, please email students@stem.org.uk