

How professional bodies engage with the STEM Ambassadors programme



Background: Construction Industry Training Board – Robert Smith

The Construction Industry Training Board is the industry training board for the construction sector in England, Scotland and Wales. CITB has developed the Go Construct brand with a purpose to help people access information they need to consider a career in construction and to help fulfil the sector's need for a larger and more represented workforce.

The STEM Ambassador relationship

We have been working with STEM Learning and the STEM Ambassadors (SA) programme to develop our own industry-specific scheme: 'Go Construct STEM Ambassadors'. Our SAs bring the construction industry to life. They engage with young people at educational events across the UK to raise aspirations, illuminate career options and support learning. Our goal is to get as many organisations as possible from our industry to join the scheme – whether they are employers, professional bodies or trade organisations.



Our Go Construct STEM Ambassadors do a range of activities, including careers fairs, talks, workshops or practical sessions, as well as one-to-one mentoring for young people at the start of their career. Where we can, we want to focus more on STEM subjects, bringing maths and science to

life for example, rather than only talking about quantity surveying! We also help teachers to develop curriculum resources and activities – we want to make sure that they are really engaging for schools, and that they support the curriculum and the Gatsby Careers benchmarks. **Our scheme supports new Go Construct STEM Ambassadors right from the start of their journey:** we have created a process to help volunteers from our industry to register and get established in their roles. We want our entire industry to use the SA Programme for all their STEM outreach activities.

We also spend a lot of our time communicating across our industry to promote the scheme and to encourage new partners to come and join us. We demonstrate the benefits that they will get from taking part – from the resources they can use to the STEM Ambassadors platform, which both matches them with opportunities to volunteer their time and is also a place to record their activities.

Where we can, we also work hard to create more opportunities suitable for our Go Construct STEM Ambassadors which are relevant to the skills they bring. We would like to see more activities relating to construction and the built environment, and we want to break down barriers to STEM – we want our Ambassadors to show young people how STEM underpins everything we do!



What is the impact of STEM Ambassadors?

Having opportunities to engage with young people through the SA programme is so important for our industry. We are facing significant skills shortages already that will continue over the next five years. We already struggle to meet current demand, let alone deal with additional challenges brought about by Brexit or people leaving the industry. So, Go Construct STEM Ambassadors is a vital product – it's almost an early intervention careers programme! We want all young people to be able to meet someone from our industry.

There are so many varied careers within our industry for young people to learn about, but so far, we don't have STEM Ambassadors from every trade. We might have one person who does drylining, for example, but that's not enough to inspire young people who might want to go into that trade – we need more! That is why we spend so much time on recruitment and encouraging people to sign up to join the scheme.

We are paving the way for other training bodies like us to make their commitment to STEM. Given the scale and size of our industry, there is so much potential!

About STEM Ambassadors

STEM Ambassadors is a fantastic volunteer programme that has been running for over 20 years.

Our volunteers offer their time, passion and energy to visit schools, colleges and youth group organisations to deliver requests from teachers and youth group leaders who want to link STEM subjects to the real world of work.

Find out more at our [information session](#).



Become a partner

Our STEM Ambassadors programme inspires the next generation and helps young people to develop the skills, confidence and mindset to build successful futures in STEM.

By running a STEM volunteer cohort we provide even more opportunities to connect young people to real-life STEM careers, prioritising support for those who need it most.

Find out more at our [information session](#).



How to get involved

If you have been inspired by how STEM Ambassadors support the learning and development of young people across the UK and you'd like to know more, please contact us at employersupport@stem.org.uk or visit stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors/partner-info

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