

In2STEM | Programme Summary

2025



Improving Social Mobility and Diversity in STEM

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a white lab coat and bright green nitrile gloves. They are holding a black and silver pipette, with their right hand on the plunger and their left hand on the tip. The background is slightly blurred, showing another person in a white lab coat and blue pants. The overall scene is a laboratory or scientific setting.

Our Mission

The In2STEM programme supports Year 12 or S5/S6 students from underrepresented and low socioeconomic backgrounds. The programme helps students gain the support, skills and experience needed to achieve their potential. This includes progressing to degrees, apprenticeships and careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

The young people we support are interested in pursuing STEM, but face barriers to their progression. For example, they may have a limited understanding of the careers available, a lack of friend and family connections to advise them or help them to access opportunities and inadequate support to produce successful applications for apprenticeships or degrees.

Our programme connects students to volunteers from different fields within STEM over the summer between Year 12 and Year 13 (or S5/S6 and their next educational step), the time when they are finalising their decisions about university or apprenticeships. Students receive insights and knowledge through in-person work experience and live online workshops. The In2STEM team works closely with its volunteers to develop and deliver engaging sessions. This support enables students of all backgrounds and abilities to build the skills, knowledge and confidence to produce successful applications and achieve their ambitions within STEM.

In2STEM Students

Student Eligibility

Our programme is free for students to participate in, and they also receive a bursary to cover their expenses. Students are required to fill out an application form and participants must meet the following criteria:

- Attend a non-fee paying and state-maintained school
- Be 16 or over and a current Year 12/S5/S6 or college student or equivalent
- Must be studying at least one STEM-related A-Level, BTEC or equivalent
- Available to take part in the majority of the programme (21 July – 22 August 2025).

In addition, students must also meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- Be from a low socioeconomic background
- Be a recipient of Free School Meals in Year 11 or at sixth form (or equivalent)
- Have parents or carers with no higher education degree
- Current recipient of EMA or Pupil Premium or the 16-19 Bursary
- Have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Have been or are currently in care, or have caring responsibilities

Places are offered based on student eligibility, subject interest, location and availability.

The 2024 Programme

- **Supported 851 young people from across the UK:**

- 67% were female, 32% male, 1% non-binary, <1% other
- 55% were eligible for free school meals
- 7% had caring responsibilities
- 2% are currently or have been in care
- 82% were from minority ethnic groups
- 76% had parents without university degrees



- **523 hosts welcomed students into their workplace, providing 27,447 hours of in-person placement experience**

For a more detailed breakdown of the programme, please view our [2024 Impact Report](#) ↗



In2STEM 2025

Catering to the interests and career aspirations of our participants, the In2STEM programme will deliver:

- **1 or 2 week in-person work placement.** Students will be matched in groups with a volunteer host whose work is of interest to them. They will spend 1 or 2 weeks at the host's workplace, building relationships and gaining experience and understanding to support them in making informed decisions about their own career pathway.
- **Online skills, employability and careers workshops.** A programme of webinars delivered by our partner organisations will support students to develop vital skills. Previous sessions include university admissions advice, CV writing and interview tips, university finance and STEM career panels.
- **Public engagement competitions.** A chance for students to develop their skills in written and visual communication, have fun and win prizes!

To foster a collaborative environment, students also participate in:

- **Induction day.** Students will attend an in-person or online induction before the programme begins to meet their cohort and the In2STEM Team.
- **Celebration event.** To round off the programme, we will host in-person and online celebration events in recognition of the hard work from students and volunteers. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their experiences, network, and learn more about how In2scienceUK can support them in the future.
- **In2careers.** After the programme, students join our alumni community and gain access to our online In2careers platform. Here they can explore employability skills workshops, career guidance and many more exciting opportunities.



Induction days



1 or 2 week in-person placement



Online skills, employability and careers workshops



Public engagement competitions



Celebration event

2025 Programme Timeline

VOLUNTEERS

RECRUITMENT

Online volunteer applications open

Information asked for in the application:

- Personal details
- Your place of work
- Your area of expertise
- Placement availability and capacity
- Risks and sensitivities
- Consent

Volunteer applications close
2 February

MATCHING

Applicants' expertise, location and availability matched to suitable student/s or notified otherwise

Admin requirements if matched:

- Complete risk assessment
- Read and adhere to our safeguarding policy
- DBS check carried out if necessary
- Any other additional requirements needed from workplace for access

INDUCTION

Online training and induction

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Volunteers host work placements

Celebration event

STUDENTS

RECRUITMENT

Online student applications open

Applications require a teacher reference and parental consent

Student applications close
2 February

MATCHING

Students are shortlisted

Students matched to volunteer hosts and offered place on the programme

INDUCTION

In-person and online induction days

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Student participation in placements, online workshops and competitions

Celebration event

November 2024

February 2024

March

April

May

June
July

21 July

22
August

Late
August

In2STEM Programme Benefits

Students

At In2scienceUK we are driven by our impact, and survey our participants before and after they take part in our programme. Key outcomes from 2024:

94%

Strongly agree/
agree

"I know what it means to work in STEM"

87%

"I feel confident introducing myself to a STEM professional or researcher"

88%

"I know a number of diverse careers I could enter with the degree or apprenticeship I am choosing"

"My host was incredibly supportive and friendly, making the entire experience both enriching and enjoyable. She ensured that I felt comfortable and included in every aspect of the research environment, encouraging me to ask questions and explore different areas of interest. She went above and beyond by helping me refine my CV, offering valuable feedback, and even arranging for her colleagues to share their experiences and insights with us.

It was an unforgettable and highly educational experience, leaving a lasting impact on my academic and professional development."

Tereza, 2024 participant

"I found the whole experience incredibly rewarding. It was really great to give students an opportunity which will be useful for them for the future, as well as for the team to experience mentoring/teaching."

Beth, 2024 Host

Volunteers

Through contributing to our programme, we make it easy for volunteers to create a lasting impact on the lives of young people and be the role model they themselves would have wanted at their age.

Volunteering with In2STEM you will:

- Receive expert training and support
- Gain skills and experience communicating with young people
- Be a role model and make a real difference
- Promote diversity and inclusion in STEM



Volunteers receive a certificate of participation which can be used as evidence of public engagement, and we can also write letters of recommendation.

92%
of volunteers
enjoyed hosting/
mentoring
students



Visit our [website](#) or contact us at hosts@in2scienceuk.org for more information

In2scienceUK is a registered charity (1164821)
and company (07706662) in England and Wales

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