

## STEM Clubs STEM Exploration Grants

The long term goal of the STEM Clubs STEM Exploration Grant is to facilitate school applications to the Royal Society Partnership Grants scheme and therefore enable UK schools and colleges to further develop investigative and problem solving skills and raise awareness of and aspiration to future STEM careers. They are designed to encourage and support schools and colleges to enrich their teaching of STEM subjects to increase student learning, enjoyment, participation and enrichment of STEM subjects by developing sustainable STEM-led projects and activities through collaboration with STEM partners.

### 1. What is the initiative?

The STEM Clubs STEM Exploration Grants' aim is to support schools as they develop an idea that will further enhance the learning of students and teachers within a an extra-curricular STEM environment. The £250 grant will provide teachers with the opportunity to develop an idea, activity or project that will benefit student learning in the long term or as an ongoing sustainable STEM intervention. Support to develop the idea into a suitable project for a Royal Society [Partnership Grant](#) application (worth up to £3000) will be provided by STEM Learning through the following programmes:

- STEM Ambassadors
- STEM Ambassador Hubs
- Science Learning Partnerships
- STEM Clubs Programme

### 2. Who is eligible?

The grant is open to any non-fee paying UK school with full time students aged between 5 to 18 years old. We welcome applications from Primary, Middle, Secondary, All Through Schools, FE Colleges and Sixth Form Colleges. Schools may apply for themselves or in partnership with another school. The lead school should have an active STEM Club involved in the initiative or intend to start one as part of the activity idea. The school or college must not have previously received a Royal Society Partnership Grant. We encourage schools and colleges from across the whole of the UK to apply, and are particularly interested in applications from rural, coastal or the following regions:

- North and mid wales
- East of England
- North East of England including North Yorkshire
- Northern Ireland
- South West of England
- South of Scotland/Borders

### 3. Are there particular subject areas to consider?

We are interested in investigative ideas that cover any aspect of STEM subjects that will lead to a long term and sustainable intervention that supports student learning. Ideas that include computing, data science or mathematics are of particular interest but do not preclude other STEM subject areas. Projects or activity ideas can be almost anything, think big and think sustainable, but all project ideas must have as their central theme an investigation that gives students the



opportunity to carry out scientific research. Ideas do not need to be new, they can build upon existing initiatives, but must expand on them in some way. Ideas simply need to be a new or genuine opportunity for your students to benefit from.

#### **4. How does the grant scheme operate?**

The STEM Clubs STEM Exploration Grant is able to support 45 schools with a £250 grant, paid to successful applicants at the start of the initiative. Schools apply for the grant using the application form, briefly outlining an initial idea and how they would use the grant to develop it. Initial ideas do not need to be fully formed but should include sufficient depth to show what the idea is, intended longevity, how the grant will be used and how it will benefit those involved. Selected schools, with support from STEM Learning, will develop the idea over the coming months into a full proposal ready for the February 2020 Royal Society Partnership Grant scheme.

#### **5. What is support is available?**

STEM Learning will offer support and advice to successful applicants through the following programmes:

[STEM Ambassadors](#) are volunteers from a wide range of STEM based careers, who help to engage, enthuse and inspire young people age 5-19 about STEM subjects and careers. They are an exciting and important free of charge resource that can help deliver a range of activities including career talks, mentoring, practical workshops and exhibitions.

[STEM Ambassador Hubs](#) offer a range of support, opportunities and local expertise, developing links between groups and individuals and work to enhance young people's STEM education. STEM Ambassador Hubs are available to support anything related to the STEM Ambassador programme, including coordinating and reporting on STEM Ambassador engagement.

[Science Learning Partnerships](#) combine local expertise in teaching and learning in science, facilitating CPD, and providing school-to-school support. They are led by local teaching school alliances, schools and colleges with excellence in science, higher education institutions, and other local partners with cutting-edge expertise in science.

[STEM Clubs Programme](#) is a support initiative that assists club leaders to sustain successful, thriving, extra-curricular STEM learning for young people. Helping to ignite interest and provide a platform to explore STEM subjects in innovative and inventive ways outside the curriculum. The programme assists club leaders to develop ideas, measure impact, and raise attainment, link STEM learning to potential careers and to the world surrounding young people.

#### **6. What are the commitments for successful applicants?**

STEM Clubs awarded a STEM Exploration Grant are expected to develop a sustainable STEM-led project or idea that will benefit school students within their school, club or local community. The following applies to successful applicants:

- identifying a lead teacher to develop the idea
- work with a STEM Partner such a STEM Ambassador to fully develop the idea and to ensure it meets the criteria set for a full Royal Society Partnership Grant
- incorporate student and teacher impact evaluation in the developed idea
- liaise with a local STEM Ambassador Hub, Regional Network Lead or Science Learning Partnership
- join the Royal Society Schools Network if not already a member
- provide brief monthly email update to the STEM Clubs support team



- provide a brief end of grant summary of no more than 3 sides of A4 to include: details of the activity, short-term impacts on students and teachers, relationship with STEM Partner and future plans
- apply for a Royal Society Partnership Grant in February 2020

## 7. How can I use the STEM Exploration Grant?

How you use the grant is entirely up to you, so long as it enables the development of the idea into a proposal suitable for the Royal Society Partnership Grant. Club Leaders could use the grant to purchase equipment, materials or tools, support CREST Awards for students, trial an idea or activity, or provision of outside expertise.

## 8. What are the benefits of being involved?

Benefits include:

- opportunity to widen participation of extra-curricular STEM provision
- opportunity to try an activity or idea not normally part of your club or extra-curricular provision
- developing an idea that is new and exciting and will stimulate interest in STEM
- raising awareness of the importance of STEM subjects and potential careers
- helping to increase the benefits of STEM subjects to students, teacher, school, parents etc.
- improving the status of STEM subjects within the school or community
- access to UK-wide volunteer STEM Ambassadors to support the activity or idea
- expertise and support from the STEM Ambassador Hubs to work towards an application for a £3000 grant from the Royal Society.

## 9. Can we use support from other providers?

Yes, use whatever methods and support you can to ensure your idea has the best chance of being developed into a successful Partnership Grants application.

## 10. Important Dates

- Application closing date: 30 April 2019
- Selection process completed: 03 May
- Schools notified: 08 May
- Schools indicate acceptance: 10 May
- Schools commence project: by 28 June
- Email updates\*: 15 July, 25 Sept, 25 Oct, 25 Nov, 15 Dec
- School summary report: 31 Jan 2020
- STEM Learning Support: May to end January 2020
- Apply for Royal Society Partnership Grant: Feb 2020

\*Brief email updates help ensure ideas are progressing, the school is receiving the support it needs and to highlight any issues, concerns or questions we can assist with.

If you have any further questions or queries please contact: [STEMclubs@stem.org.uk](mailto:STEMclubs@stem.org.uk)