

10 ways to find your STEM career: STEM Ambassador guidance

Help make career learning visible in the classroom and inspire students to understand more about how their experiences in and out of lessons will support them during their STEM career journey.

This guidance accompanies the [10 ways to find your STEM career poster](#). It has been written for [STEM Ambassadors](#) and provides suggestions of how to support each statement on the poster through volunteer activities.

Note: throughout this guidance we will be linking to the Gatsby Careers Benchmarks. For further information on what each Benchmark includes, please visit the [Careers & Enterprise website](#).



Search online... find careers in STEM that interest you

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 2: Learning from career and labour market information

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 3: Addressing the needs of each student / learner

- encourage the students that you work with to consider what interests them in their STEM lessons. Are there particular subjects that they enjoy studying? Are there certain skills that they have enjoyed learning?
- try to link your activity to your personal career story, including what you enjoyed studying at school and your route into your industry.
- include links to careers websites in your presentations and encourage students to research different careers after your activity. This might include linking to websites such as [start](#), [National Careers Service](#) or [Prospects](#) as well as the career sections of relevant STEM employers.
- include a wide variety of role models in any content or resources you share, being careful to avoid any references to STEM stereotypes that exclude (ie you have to be clever to work in Science, computer scientists are all geeks, engineering is for boys).

Recommend resources:

Visit the [STEM Learning careers page](#) for curriculum linked STEM careers resources, posters and information.

Careers websites for students to explore, linked to:

- Construction - <https://www.goconstruct.org/>
- Food and drink industry - <https://tastycareers.org.uk/>
- Science - <https://www.cogentskills.com/careers/>
- Maths - <https://www.mathscareers.org.uk/>
- Engineering - <https://www.tomorrowseengineers.org.uk/>

Be part of a team... join a STEM club

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers

- offer to support a [STEM club](#), providing expertise and offering advice for students undertaking STEM projects.
- for ideas on the types of activities that STEM Clubs take part in, take a look at the [STEM Learning STEM Club resources](#).

Recommend resources:

Find out about the [resources, training and guidance available for your STEM Club](#).

Learn new skills... take up a STEM hobby

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 3: Addressing the needs of each student / learner

- share your own STEM related hobbies with students and discuss with them the skills and knowledge that your hobby helped you to learn.
- where possible, signpost internet sites and community groups that students can join to develop an interest for your job, outside of lessons. (Ie coding, making, gardening, robotics, etc...)
- volunteer to support STEM themed community groups (Ie [Coderdojo](#), [Code Club](#), etc)

Recommend resources:

Explore how student experiences outside of the classroom can contribute to their [Science Capital](#).

Get ahead... research future STEM careers

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 2: Learning from career and labour market information

- as well as helping students to understand what you do in your job, try to provide a wider understanding of your sector and highlight future labour trends.
- share scientific and technological developments that are taking place in your sector. What might the future have in store for the students you are working with?
- help students to understand the important role that transferable skills (Ie maths, digital skills) play in your daily life and the role that they will have as your career develops.

Recommend resources:

Find [UK labour market information from the Office of National Statistics](#).

Explore labour market information with the [Careerometer widget](#).

Get inspired... visit STEM places of interest

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers

- volunteer your support for STEM related events happening in your community.
- share stories of inspiring visits you took part in when you were younger.
- highlight local STEM places of interest that relate to your volunteer activity (Ie museums, nature reserves, etc)

Recommend resources:

Explore how student experiences outside of the classroom can contribute to their [Science Capital](#).

Challenge yourself... take part in STEM competitions

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers

- help teachers to create a competition for students, linked to your sector or business.
- volunteer to be a judge for a local or national STEM competition.
- offer to support a school or college that is entering a competition. You could be a mentor and provide feedback to students on their entry.
- provide examples of how a student might develop employability skills through STEM activities and link this to the types of skills that employers require from their employees. Use the [Top 10 employability skills](#) poster to help students identify which skills they are developing.

Recommend resources:

Download the [Top 10 employability skills](#) poster.

Find out more about [STEM competitions and challenges](#).

See it for yourself... visit STEM workplaces

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 6: Experiences of workplaces

- find out if your workplace can host student visits. Advertise any opportunities with your local [STEM Ambassador hub](#).
- consider hosting visits around particular [STEM themed awareness events](#) (le [British Science week](#), [National Careers Week](#), [Ada Lovelace Day](#).)
- if you can host a visit for students, try to give them experience of the workplace, including a presentation on your business and the sector, tours of different departments and opportunity to learn about different careers and routes into the workplace by meeting a range of colleagues.
- highlight the value that volunteering and work related experiences can provide students, in your talks and activities.

Recommend resources:

Find out more about [STEM themed awareness events](#).

Support students to access [volunteering opportunities](#).

[Read guidance on hosting young people in the workplace](#) from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Ask questions... get careers information from STEM Ambassadors

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 5: Encounters with employers and employees

- volunteer to take part in careers specific activities, even if you are unsure if you are qualified. Answering questions about your work, life, skills and qualifications is useful careers information for students.
- when supporting an activity, try to provide students with information about personal career story, including what you enjoyed studying at school and your route into your industry.
- volunteer to support teachers and parents, as well as young people. For example, providing a careers talk at a parents evening or supporting teachers with planning careers content into their lessons are both really helpful ways that you can extend your support and reach key influencers in young people's lives.

Recommend resources:

Find out more about how to include these in your [STEM Ambassador](#) offer.

Record your achievements... Showcase your STEM skills to future employers

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 3: Addressing the needs of each student / learner

- volunteer to take part in careers activities that help to develop student CVs and interview technique.
- support students to understand the importance of showcasing their STEM achievements when applying for a job or further education opportunity. Help them to see value in out of lesson experiences, like clubs and competitions, as well as their academic achievements.
- share your experiences of interview and job applications, as part of your wider careers discussions with students and teachers.
- talk about the STEM and employability skills that employers are looking for in your field of work. Use the [Top 10 employability skills](#) poster to help students identify which skills they are developing.

Recommend resources:

Download the [Top 10 employability skills](#) poster.

Plan your STEM future... research apprenticeships, colleges and universities

Gatsby Careers Benchmark 7: Encounters with further and higher education

- try to link your activity to your personal career story; include training you have received and qualifications achieved. Highlight for students the routes into your role, identifying for example if you'd need a University degree or an apprenticeship.
- where possible, share with students your experience of roles other than your own. For example, who works in your team and what was their route into the organisation?

Recommend resources:

Visit the [STEM Learning careers page](#) for curriculum linked STEM careers resources, posters, and information.