

# Science and Engineering Ambassadors: Linking schools and the world of work

## What is the SEAs programme?

The Science and Engineering Ambassadors (SEAs) programme enables people with science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) skills to support teachers in schools and colleges, by enhancing and enriching the relevant parts of the school curriculum. The programme is coordinated nationally by **STEMNET** and is managed by its UK network of local organisations skilled at linking education and industry.

The programme's aims are:

- to bring real-life STEM examples to schools and colleges
- to improve educational achievement in STEM subjects by supporting teachers and students
- to excite young people about the vital role STEM plays in our lives
- to introduce the rewarding careers opened up by STEM qualifications.

## What do SEAs do?

SEAs enrich the curriculum in diverse and innovative ways that include:

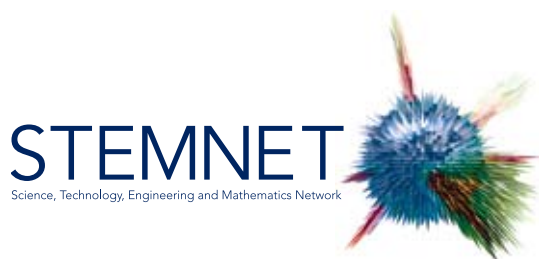
- offering support for school activities such as science and engineering clubs
- helping schools with STEM competitions, events and awards
- assisting with extra-curricular STEM experiences
- mentoring, providing careers guidance and being role-models
- helping with work experience and work based placements for teachers and students.



## What sort people become Ambassadors?

SEAs are a widely diverse group – marine biologists, mathematicians, aeronautical engineers, medical physicists and industrial chemists, to name but a few! What they all have in common is the willingness, ability and enthusiasm to work with young people and teachers in a wide variety of settings.

Once new SEAs are registered, and have completed a mandatory Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure, the organisation managing SEAs in the area provides an introduction to the programme and opportunities to work with schools and colleges.





## Benefits all round

### Benefits to Ambassadors

Ambassadors, the key players in this prestigious, national volunteering programme, benefit from opportunities:

- to strengthen communication, planning and presentation skills
- to gain a fresh perspective on day-to-day professional activities whilst enjoying a new sense of achievement
- to make a difference in the local community
- to reach a better understanding of the education system and the needs of young people.

*It is enormously rewarding to experience the interest and excitement generated in a classroom and those moments of magic when understanding dawns, even when explaining engineering first principles.*

Benjamin Cutner, Civil Engineer, Entec UK Ltd

### Benefits to students

Through the SEAs programme, students have opportunities:

- to improve their key skills while increasing their understanding of STEM
- to discover how STEM subjects are relevant to everyday experience
- to have their confidence raised by being inspired, motivated and enthused
- to appreciate the outstanding STEM career opportunities on offer.

*You can see exhibitions about engineering, you can be told about it, you can look at pictures, watch videos and read books, but until you've had a go yourself you haven't experienced the real thrill of it.*

Peter Jones, A-Level student

### Benefits to teachers

By working with **SEAs**, teachers are able:

- to access enthusiastic and skilled volunteers
- to set up or expand extra-curricular clubs
- to develop more varied teaching and learning styles
- to update their knowledge of contemporary science,
- to learn more about local companies and linking.

*Many of the teachers in our science department do not have industrial or research experience themselves, so meeting SEAs working in engineering and science fields has helped them to broaden their knowledge. They will now be better equipped to talk to our students about science-based careers.*

Gerry Courtney, Assistant Headteacher, Plashet School

### Benefits to employers

Companies employing Ambassadors also benefit through opportunities:

- to challenge stereotypes about scientists and engineers
- to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of the future STEM workforce
- to provide career development opportunities for staff
- to enhance their reputation in the local community
- to discuss their thoughts on STEM curriculum design with teachers
- to gain access fresh ideas through young people's creative thinking.

*Inspiring and enthusing the next generation of engineers and scientists is vital for our business and for the country as a whole.*

Nicola Swaney, Education Manager, Rolls-Royce plc

## Want to get involved or just find out a little more?

Visit [www.stemnet.org.uk](http://www.stemnet.org.uk) where you can find contact details for **STEMNET** and the organisation managing SEAs in your area.

Email: [seas@stemnet.org.uk](mailto:seas@stemnet.org.uk) Telephone: 020 3206 0450