



In²science^{UK}



Impact Report 2025

Start exploring >>>



At In2scienceUK, we believe that innovation can only be driven when opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are accessible for all. Without the relevant role models, resources and real-world experience, talented young people from low socioeconomic backgrounds are being held back from turning their ambitions into reality. We are a social mobility charity committed to transforming lives through STEM by breaking down these barriers, and improving representation in STEM industries by providing support for young people at key transition points in their education and careers.

In collaboration with our wonderful partners and volunteers, we offer a mixture of in-person networking events, interactive workshops and mentoring, and practical work experience to build a meaningful STEM community. Each of these opportunities are designed to equip our beneficiaries with the knowledge, confidence and connections to explore and succeed in STEM.

Explore In2scienceUK's impact in 2025

Click to navigate to sections in the report and learn more about each programme's impact. The home button brings you back to this page.

[Our impact at a glance](#) >

[Our focus](#) >

[Eligibility criteria](#) >

[Case studies](#) >

[Reflections](#) >

[Thank you](#) >

[Support us](#) >

In²STEM

Summer programme for Year 12 and S5/6 students

A programme dedicated to supporting students who are beginning their STEM journey. To help them decide which path to choose, we offer a practical work experience placement, alongside skills and employability workshops and competitions.

[Read more >](#)

In²research

Suitable for second-year undergraduates and onwards

A year-long programme to improve access to postgraduate research degrees and careers through mentorship, workshops, away days and a funded eight-week placement.

[Read more >](#)


In2careers

Online alumni community and support

The next step for In2scienceUK alumni to continue their journey in STEM, through exclusive access to employability workshops, mentoring, an online community platform and in-person networking events.

[Read more >](#)

> = internal links (click and go to other pages in this report)

 = external weblinks (to open in a new tab, hold the Ctrl (Windows/Linux) or Cmd (Mac) key then click the icon)



Our impact at a glance

Our beneficiaries

1,377
total participants

In2STEM
622
participants from
3,430
applications

In2research
125
participants from
491
applications

In2careers
630
participants
interacted with
the programme

Our volunteers

915
total volunteers

In2STEM
517

In2research
207

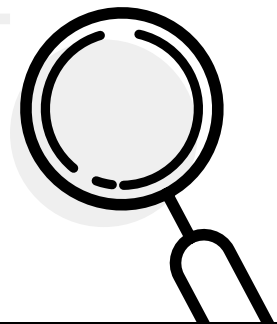
In2careers
191

Hours of placement experience

51,839
total hours
of placement
experience

In2STEM
19,499

In2research
32,340



I think **In2scienceUK** is one of the few charities truly making science accessible, especially for people from underrepresented backgrounds who might otherwise find it difficult to get into STEM.

Through **In2STEM**, I gained my very first real exposure at 17 to what science looks like at a higher level. Coming from a background without much access to STEM opportunities, it was eye-opening. It was the first time I ever set foot in a university, the first time I visited a university library, and even the first time I was asked to carry out research there. Those moments gave me the powerful realisation that I can do this.

During **In2research**, the sessions were valuable in helping me understand the pathways to

a PhD: how to apply, what it involves, and whether it's the right option for me. Then for me, **In2careers** acted as a bridge between university and the professional world. It gave me a tool to communicate and network with people working in STEM, and the chance to gain exposure that isn't always easy to access.

I am currently working as a **Systems Engineer** – I want to be one of the **leaders in STEM**. For me, this has come **full circle**. I've gained so much from the programmes, and now I want to give back so that it can continue to grow, develop and support even more people."

– Sandip
In2scienceUK alumnus

[Read full story >](#)




Our focus

STEM careers are still out of reach for too many young people

- **1 in 3 students** from low-income households progress to university compared to 1 in 2 of their peers [↗](#)
- The STEM skills shortage is thought to cost the UK economy an **additional £1.5 billion** every year [↗](#)
- Only **9% of tech employees are from low socioeconomic backgrounds** compared to 29% in finance and 23% in law [↗](#)
- Only **6% of doctors are from working-class** backgrounds compared to 73% from professional and managerial backgrounds [↗](#)
- UK STEM graduates can **earn nearly 20% more** than their peers [↗](#)
- Postgraduate degree holders in OECD countries earn almost **40% more** than those with an undergraduate qualification only [↗](#)

We asked our own community what barriers they have previously faced:

61% 
said lack of connections

56% 
said a general lack of confidence in achievement

52% 
said a lack of access to work experience or similar opportunities

Data from our In2careers survey in spring 2025

To create meaningful change we can promote social mobility in STEM by supporting:



development of practical and relevant professional skills



increased knowledge of different pathways in STEM



increased or retained interest in pursuing STEM education and careers



growth of confidence in applying for and working in STEM courses and professions



heightened sense of belonging in work and education in STEM fields



increased access to inclusive STEM opportunities

Throughout the report, these symbols reappear to show where the impact of our programmes supports each of the six key areas.



Eligibility criteria

For all of our programmes, participants must have attended **a non-fee paying and non-selective state-maintained school** at the age 11–16 and come from a **low socioeconomic background**.

What do we mean by ‘low socioeconomic background’?

We take various factors into consideration when determining a potential participant’s eligibility, including whether they:

come from a **low-income household**, measured by parental occupation at the age of 14

were eligible for **free school meals** [↗](#)

received an **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)** [↗](#), **pupil premium** [↗](#) or the **16–19 bursary** [↗](#)

have been or are currently in **care**

have **caring responsibilities**

have an **education health and care (EHC) plan** [↗](#)





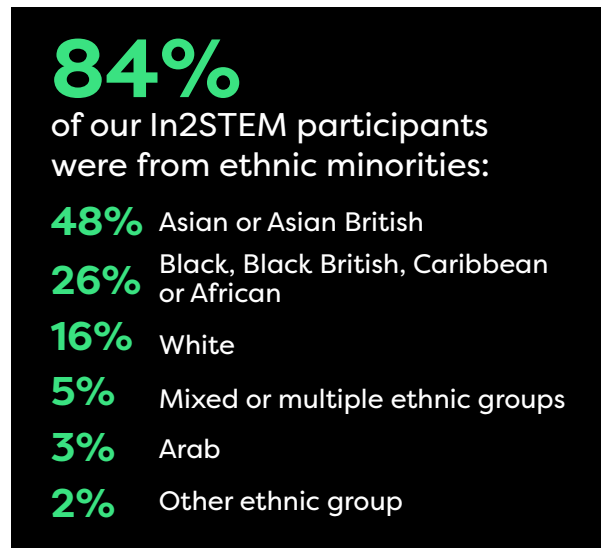
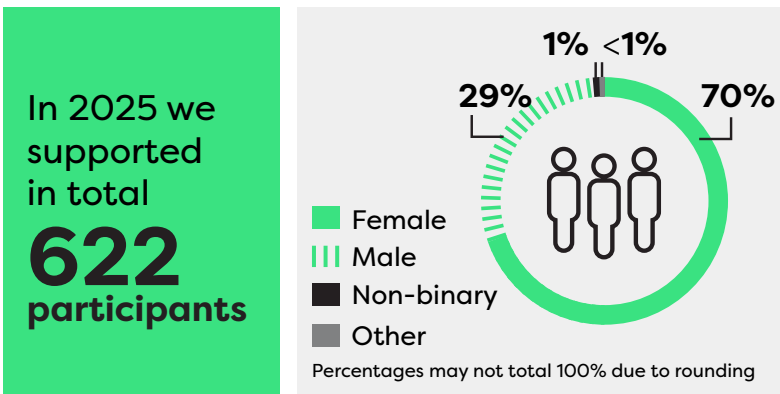
● ○ ○ ○ Click circles to navigate

Programme snapshot

This year, **3,430** young people who will **transition to university or to an apprenticeship** after school applied to our five-week In2STEM programme.

Our dedicated volunteers provided **19,499 hours** in-person STEM placements within both academic and industry settings, offering hands-on experience to understand what a career in STEM truly entails.

Our beneficiaries



Our volunteers

Without the support of our volunteers, our mission would not be possible. From Edinburgh to Exeter, STEM professionals have worked to share their expertise and provide insights across a range of STEM fields. A panel of volunteers also judged participants' entries for the In2STEM public engagement competition.

Across the programme, we had:

408 placement hosts and co-hosts

109 workshop leaders and **induction volunteers**, 18 of whom were alumni

These incredible volunteers delivered:

38 workshops including mock lectures, application advice and career panels across different industries

approximately **£175,597-worth of in-kind support** (from hosts, co-hosts, workshops leaders and induction volunteers)

517 volunteers supported In2STEM



I think In2scienceUK is perfect for bringing organisations and young people who need those organisations together - it's wonderful. It's great because if we were to try and do this on our own, it would be really hard. I loved hosting young people who are underrepresented in STEM careers and university courses and I would definitely be interested in doing it again!"

- Sheena

In2STEM placement host, Glasgow Science Centre





Impact

Empowering young people to make choices about their future in STEM

To measure In2STEM's impact in 2025, we analysed 488 participant survey responses.

Programme offering



In-person placements in academic or industry settings



Five-week workshop series delivered by professionals from across a range of STEM fields



Networking opportunities at our induction and celebration events

[Programme timeline](#)

Survey results

Opening the door to relevant experience

With an opportunity to secure work experience in a subject of their choice, participants can gain insight into what a STEM workplace is really like, while fostering relevant skills under the guidance of an expert.

98%^Δ

said they gained practical or professional skills during the programme that will support them in the future

Supporting decisions for the future

Our expert-led skills and employability workshops support participants to understand the breadth of career pathways in STEM.

In addition to STEM mock lectures and careers panels, we provide admissions Q&As, CV and personal statement support, and guidance on apprenticeships and student finance.

91%[□]

said that during the programme they learnt about different routes into a STEM career

Confidence to write a high-quality UCAS personal statement or application

Pre-programme: **47%**
●●●●●●●●●●
Post-programme: **80%**^Δ
●●●●●●●●●●

Fostering confidence and belonging

In2STEM is the first stepping stone of our programmes for making relevant connections and joining our diverse In2scienceUK community. This begins as early as the induction, where we run a workshop to support professional networking skills.

96%^Δ

said that the programme increased their confidence in applying for a STEM degree or apprenticeship

94%[◇]

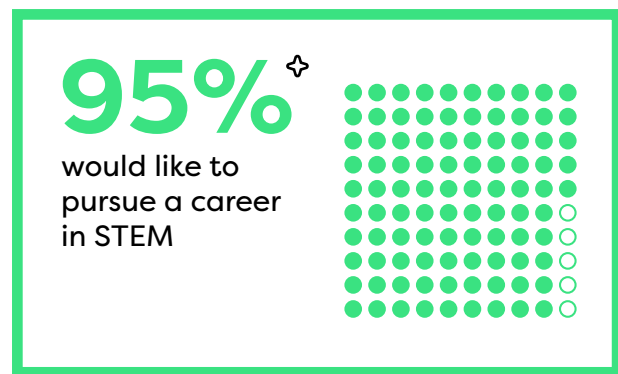
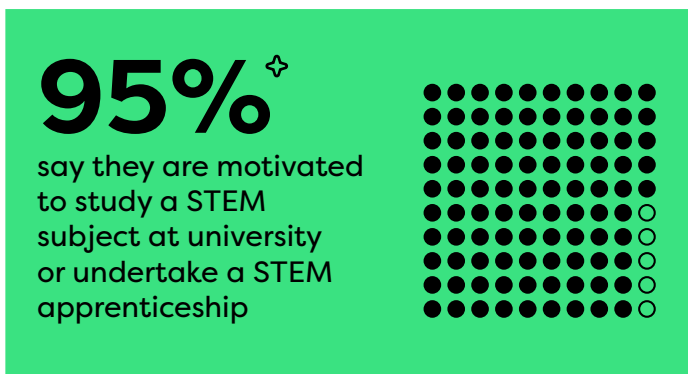
said that the programme made them feel like they belong in a career in STEM



Impact

Hearing inspirational stories from STEM professionals and gaining practical experience fuels young people’s interest and transforms their motivation into actionable plans for their future STEM careers.

After the programme:



[See longer-term impact >](#)



The main reason I applied for In2STEM is to really confirm what I want to do in the future and to help me figure out the paths that are available to me.

No one in my family works in STEM and I had always been **confused before** about the industry or job I want to go into. In school, we have been taught about the theoretical side of things...the placement has been a great opportunity to **put the theory to practical use**. Being on this placement shows me the range of different things involved in STEM careers: you’ve got people working in finance, software and mechanical, electrical and optical engineering.

In2STEM has made me certain that I want to go to university.”

– Ashmin
In2STEM participant

[Read full story >](#)




Longer-term impact

Once In2STEM beneficiaries have completed the programme, their relationship with In2scienceUK doesn't end.

Although they go back to school to complete their final year, they become In2scienceUK alumni and can receive support through our In2careers programme while they continue to navigate their next steps into an apprenticeship or higher education and beyond.

To date, the In2STEM programme has supported


5,350 participants



Pursuing a STEM degree


Longer-term impact on 1,984 alumni from the 2021–23 cohorts:*

88% applied to universities one year after completing In2STEM



93% of which were STEM degree applications


91% of applicants applied for higher-tariff universities



77% of those with offers received one from a higher-tariff institution

97% of those who applied were successfully offered a place and

84% accepted university offers



91% of which were for STEM subjects

*Data analysed using UCAS Outreach Evaluator (formerly UCAS STROBE) and UCAS EXACT. These are the three most recent cohorts for which UCAS data was available when this report was published.



When I studied physics at A level, the class was tough and I was the only girl. I often had comments like “Do you think you can really do this?” and I felt put off from going to university. However, I found out about In2STEM in Year 12 and I was mentored by a Professor of Lunar and Planetary Science, who really encouraged me and **gave me the**

motivation to apply for astrophysics at university. I graduated from my degree in astrophysics at Lancaster University and will be starting my master’s in autumn! **It was through In2STEM that I realised I can actually be a scientist.**”

– Tarteel
In2STEM alumnus

[Read full story >](#)



● ○ ○ ○ Click circles to navigate

Programme snapshot

In2careers is designed to support beneficiaries to transition from education to STEM employment.

In2careers uses a bespoke online platform to connect alumni with a diverse range of volunteers based in academic and industry settings. Depending on their interests and stage in their education, beneficiaries have the flexibility to choose which resources and opportunities support them best.


The programme is open to sign-up all year round and beneficiaries can take advantage of the vast number of opportunities provided via In2careers while they transition into a profession in a STEM field.

Our beneficiaries

To date 







2,766

young people have become members of the In2careers community

630 

participants have benefited from the programme in 2024/25

In2careers participants benefited from:

15  in-person events	21  workshops	59  peer mentoring relationships
10  opportunities to develop public speaking skills	3  skills development opportunities	19  relationships with industry mentors

298 participants have benefited from the learning lab, resources and opportunities advertised on the platform

Our volunteers

In2careers volunteers offer a range of support, online and in-person, both in group settings and on a one-to-one basis. Collectively, they cover a huge breadth of expertise and sector knowledge:

191
volunteers
invested

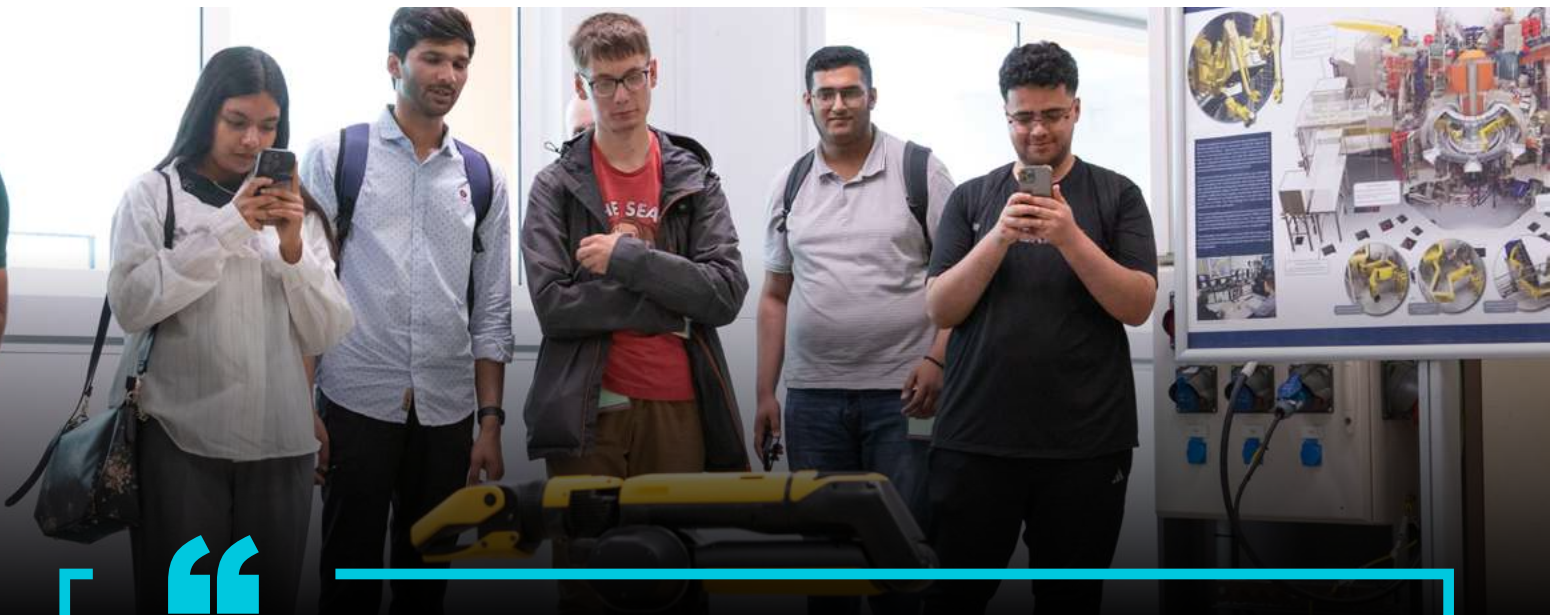
1,248
hours to deliver online workshops, in-person networking and site visit events, training and professional development opportunities



Programme snapshot

University Peer Mentoring

As part of our University Peer Mentoring scheme [\[link\]](#)
59 mentees and **37 mentors** participated. The scheme connects first-year undergraduates with another In2careers member who is a few years ahead in their STEM journey, allowing them to share their own experiences and knowledge.



In2careers events and competitions **opened doors I wouldn't have accessed otherwise**, including a conference I couldn't afford on my own. I also wanted a way to build leadership, so mentoring on the University Peer Mentoring scheme helped me to do exactly that. Seeing my mentee grow from shy to confident was hugely rewarding, and I plan to keep mentoring. I've encouraged her to apply to In2research and explore a PhD. Overall, these experiences **broadened my perspective and boosted my confidence.**"

- Palak

In2scienceUK alumnus who took part as a peer mentor

[Read full story >](#)

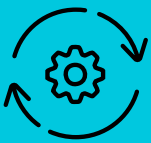


Impact

Supporting the transition from education into STEM employment

To measure In2careers' impact in 2024/25, we analysed 221 participant survey responses.

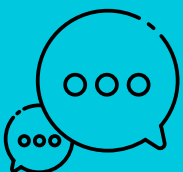
Programme offering



Skills clinics and workshops delivered by our dedicated partners and volunteers year-round



Bank of online resources and signposting to STEM careers information and opportunities



Opportunities to connect with mentors and fellow members

Survey results

Bridging the STEM careers guidance gap

Academics, In2scienceUK alumni and scientific organisations deliver workshops and skills clinics on science communication, academic writing, and STEM careers insights.

81%[□] know more about different STEM careers available to them and how to access them

60%[↳] of those who started a new course or job/apprenticeship since they joined In2careers agreed that they are in their current course/job due to the support they received from In2careers

Providing flexible, self-directed learning

Our online resources, such as the Learning Lab and jobs board, let participants explore STEM pathways of their own choosing. With guides, videos and signposting on employability skills, university life, application tips and more, they can access the support they need whenever it suits them.

71%[□] have gained new skills and knowledge to help them progress with their career

71%[△] feel more confident applying for a job in STEM

Building an inclusive community

Meeting peers at different stages of their STEM journeys, online and in person, shows participants that diverse talent exists in these fields. Access to role models with similar backgrounds helps build their confidence and belief in their own potential.

60%[△] said they have made new connections with STEM professionals

79%[◇] feel more welcome and included in STEM spaces

78%[◇] agree that people like them work in STEM

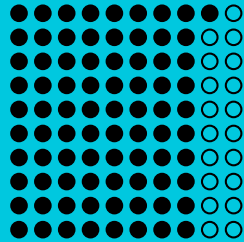


Impact

The core of In2careers' mission is to provide beneficiaries with increased access to STEM opportunities and to get beneficiaries into STEM careers.

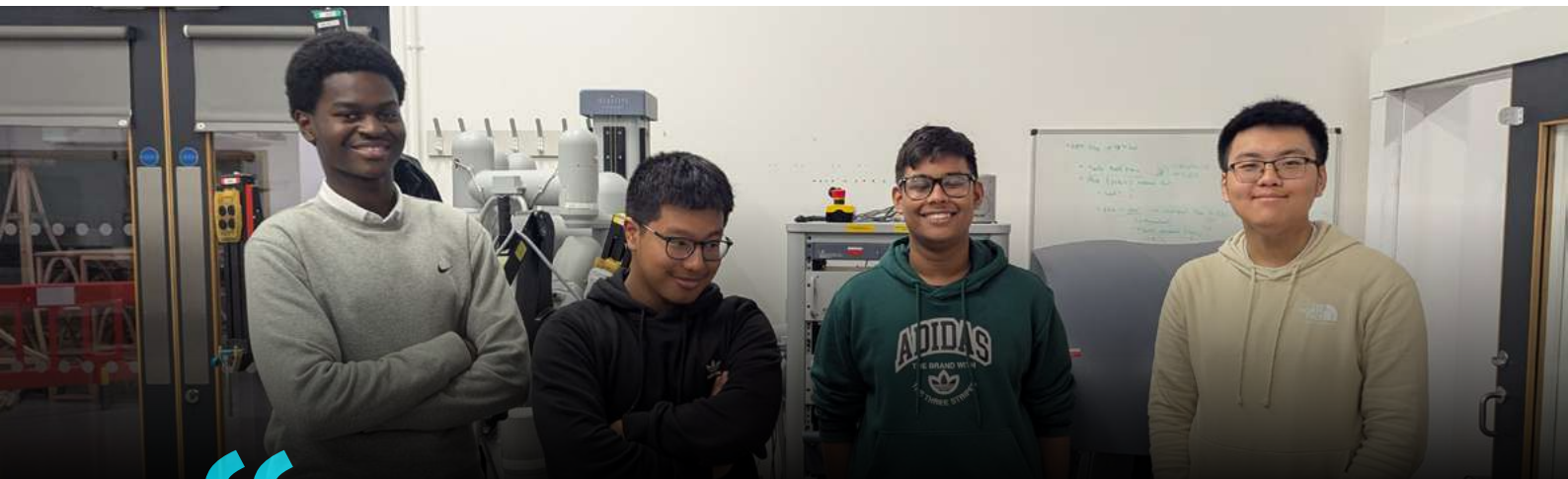
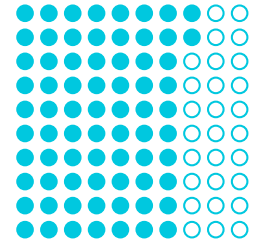
81%

feel they have had access to more opportunities to get involved in STEM opportunities



72%

feel they have access to more opportunities in research



My university degree is somewhat niche, and many people aren't familiar with it, so having **additional guidance** through programmes like In2careers has been really valuable. My mentor provided consistent guidance, helped me understand recruitment processes, reviewed my CV and cover letter, and even conducted mock interviews.

Having **access to someone with real experience was incredibly helpful in preparing me for the next stage of my career.** In2careers has really helped me **clarify my career direction** and opened my eyes to opportunities I hadn't considered before."

- Krish

In2careers participant

[Read full story >](#)



● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Click circles to navigate

Programme snapshot

In2research is a collaborative initiative by UCL and In2scienceUK to support students and graduates from ethnic minority and low socioeconomic backgrounds.

In2research aims to address our beneficiaries' three main challenges:

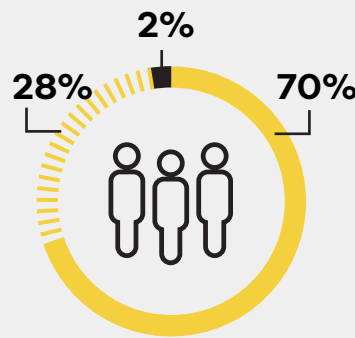
- access to postgraduate research career information
- opportunities to gain relevant experience
- culture change needed to promote inclusion in research institutions

Our beneficiaries

In 2024/25 we supported in total

125

participants



90%

of participants were from minority ethnic groups:

- 50%** Asian or Asian British
- 20%** Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
- 10%** White
- 9%** Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- 8%** Arab
- 2%** Other ethnic group

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

491

applications received



Our volunteers

Our mission is brought to life by the incredible support of our **207 volunteers**, who guided our participants through their exploration of postgraduate research. Across the programme:

103

volunteers acted as placement hosts and co-hosts that delivered

32,340

hours of placement experience

17

volunteers acted as placement hosts and mentors

104

volunteers acted as mentors that delivered

461

hours of mentorship

17 volunteers acted as away day speakers and workshop facilitators, five of whom were alumni



What really appealed to me is that the programme offers opportunities to those who wouldn't be able to take part otherwise; not everyone can drop everything to do a placement without pay. In2research solves that problem. Hosting has been a really meaningful opportunity and allowed me to pay forward the support I received. Both participants have made a significant contribution to our research goals during their placement - the data they coded will actually be used in the papers we are writing."

Dr Rana Abu-Zhaya
In2research placement host, Lecturer in Speech and Hearing Science, University College London

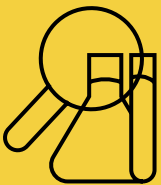


Impact

Supporting the transition into postgraduate research

To measure In2research’s impact in 2024/25, we analysed 113 participant survey responses.

Programme offering



Eight-week funded research placement in an academic setting



Expert guidance through online workshops and mentoring sessions



Two in-person away days to support professional development

[Programme timeline](#)

Survey results

Building professional skills and connections

With the support of our volunteer placement hosts, participants gain hands-on research experience to help them make informed next steps. The placement, supported by a living wage stipend, offers the chance to develop technical skills and professional connections.

90%^Δ

agreed that they gained practical research skills through their placement

80%^Δ

agreed that they built a network through their placement

82%[◊]

feel a sense of connection with academics in their field of study

Navigating the research landscape

Before the placement, we run workshops and expert panels to explain the application and funding process, with follow-up sessions providing tailored guidance from mentors.

Feeling confident in their ability to construct a postgraduate research application

Pre-programme:

12%



Post-programme:

88%^Δ



Are clear on how to apply for postgraduate research degree funding

Pre-programme:

8%



Post-programme:

81%[◻]



Empowering participants to pursue their goals

The programme begins and ends with away days, giving participants in-person learning and networking opportunities, and a chance to present posters or other research outputs.

97%⁺

said In2research helped them to decide whether they want a career in research

85%⁺

said they want to become a professional or researcher in their field of study

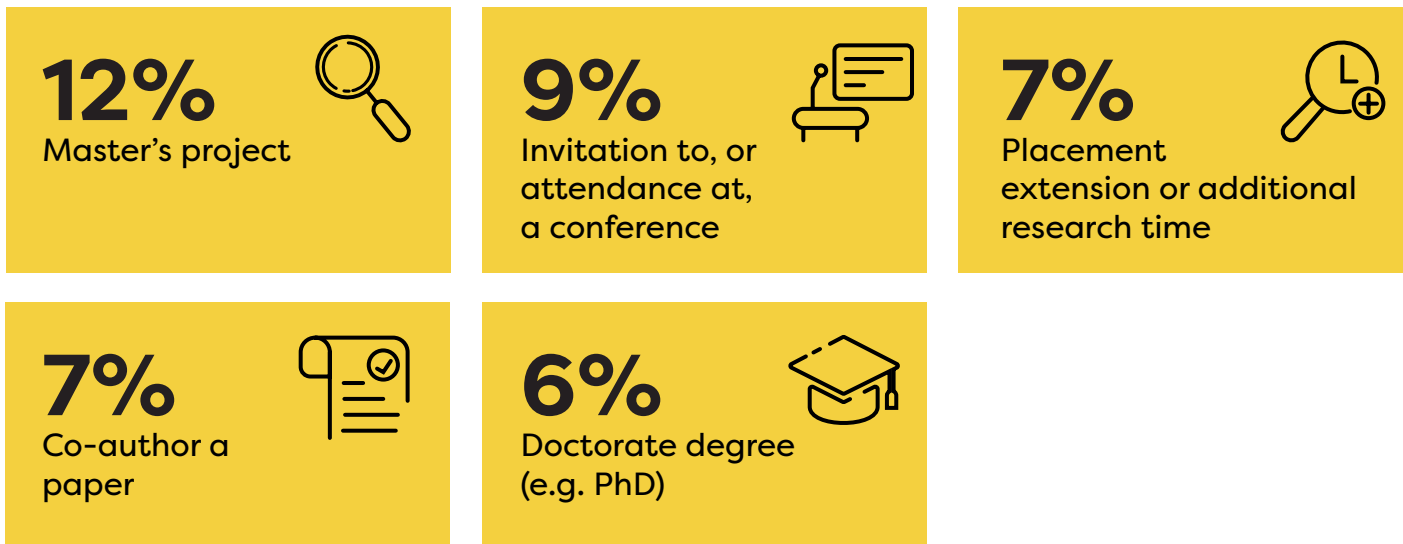


Impact

The knowledge, connections and practical experience lead many of our participants to further opportunities, such as placement extensions, internships and co-authorships.



Top five opportunities that were secured:



I became really interested in research and the idea of doing a PhD further down the line, but I didn't actually know what that involved. I'm the first in my family to go to university, so **I had no idea what came after a degree.** This experience actually showed me what a real, ongoing research project looks like in practice. My In2research experience has been so valuable for **my career. I now definitely want to do a PhD in the future.**"

- Farzana
In2research participant

[Read full story >](#)



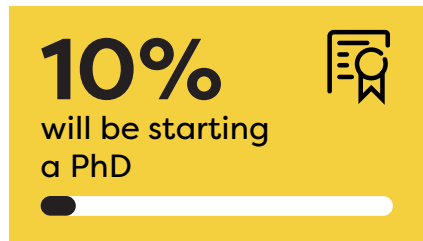
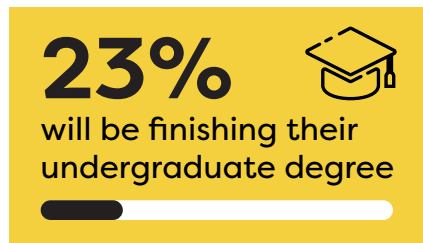
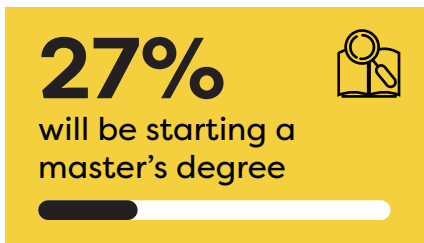
Longer-term impact

To evaluate the longer-term impact of the In2research programme, beneficiaries are surveyed one year after the programme to understand where they are at that point and their feedback on their experience.

For this survey, 27% of the 2023/24 programme graduates shared their thoughts about the programme and their successes and progress since the end of the programme one year earlier.

Our alumni's top four next steps

One year after completing In2research, in the 25/26 academic year:



70%

of alumni are planning to apply for a PhD



The In2research programme fitted perfectly alongside my university studies. The workshops were **incredibly valuable**, particularly those on storytelling and how to communicate science and research. Being paired with a mentor also gave me practical guidance, especially with my CV, which was **so useful at that stage of my degree**. As I was in my third year, the advice on how to find opportunities in a competitive market felt very relevant.

One of the highlights was my research placement. **It gave me the chance to make connections in academia and explore a field I hadn't considered before**. I still keep in touch with my supervisor at UCL and recently attended a seminar he delivered. Overall, the programme opened my horizons, gave me transferable skills and helped me see the many different routes my career could take."

– Sarkis

In2research participant

[Read full story >](#)

Longer-term impact

Follow-up survey

One year after completing the In2research programme, alumni continue to view it as a valuable and transformative experience.

100%

say the programme was valuable to them



Relevant knowledge and skills

Reflecting on the programme, the alumni we surveyed agreed that In2research has increased their knowledge of different pathways in research and the skills required to get there.

97%[□]

say that the programme has increased their knowledge about different career pathways in research



100%[□]

say they know what skills they need to complete a postgraduate research degree



97%[△]

agree that they gained practical research skills through their placement



Sustained confidence and interest in research

As well as practical support, alumni also agreed that their confidence and enthusiasm for research was boosted by the programme.

83%[△]

of them say they feel confident they can construct a postgraduate research application



Further academic opportunities and a sense of community

Alumni reported long-lasting benefits of In2research, which reached beyond the year-long programme, not just from the community they are a part of but through opportunities to support their research journey, such as conference invitations or attendance (30%) or a master's project (23%).

77%[◇]

secured additional opportunities after the programme finished



48%

of those saying they would not have secured them without the In2research programme

90%[♣]

say that the programme has increased their interest and enthusiasm for research



83%[♣]

say they feel a sense of community with the In2research alumni community



80%[♣]

say they feel supported by their In2research alumni peers

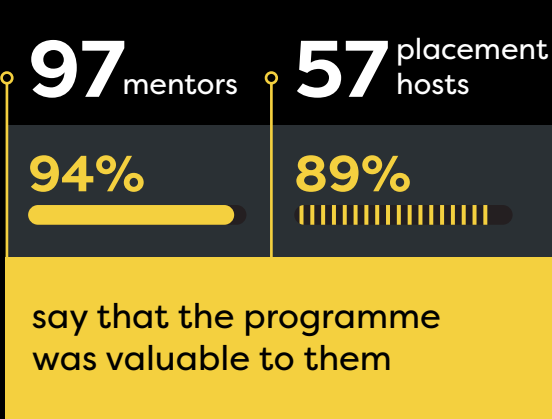




Impact on volunteers

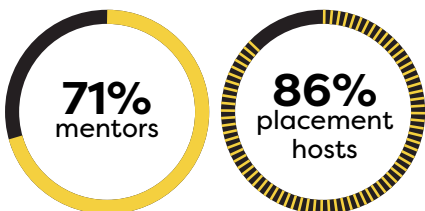
One of the aims of the In2research programme is to improve research culture and participant wellbeing.

We evaluated the post-programme survey responses of:



The programme offers a workshop for all mentors and placement hosts in Race and Cultural Literacy. In partnership with Upsign and Leading Routes, the programme offers to raise awareness of the barriers that participants face when engaging with research and academia. Through doing this, we aim to help volunteers become more confident in mentoring and supervising people from diverse backgrounds.

We evaluated the post-programme survey responses from 76 mentors and 35 placement hosts who attended this year’s Race and Cultural Literacy workshop:



agree that they have greater awareness of the barriers faced by Black, Asian and minority ethnic* postgraduate research students

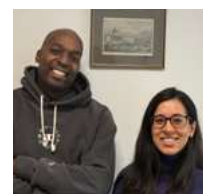
*The term 'BAME' reflects the wording of the original 2021 funding agreement. In2scienceUK does not use this term in its current communications.



It is an absolute privilege for us to represent UCL in steering the pioneering In2research programme, where we get to watch the participants’ personal and professional growth and **create a positive research culture shift**. Together with In2scienceUK, we have created an impactful and self-sustaining programme that fills a much-needed gap in the research ecosystem, and we couldn’t have done it without our partners. We look forward to growing In2research, creating new connections, and improving our impact on research within higher education.”

– Dr Michael Sulu, Dr Snigdha Dutta

Principal investigator and co-investigator, University College London



We wouldn’t be able to deliver this impact without our wonderful In2research delivery partners:

Delivery partners >



● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Click circles to navigate

Sandip's story

“I think In2scienceUK is one of the few charities truly making science accessible, especially for people from underrepresented backgrounds who might otherwise find it difficult to get into STEM. What makes it unique is its outreach; the way it connects with students and brings opportunities directly to them.

Any opportunity that comes through In2scienceUK is worth grabbing because you only stand to gain. You don't lose anything by taking part, but you have so much to learn, experience and build on. I first took part in In2STEM in 2016, and later joined In2research in 2021/22.

Through In2STEM, I gained my very first real exposure at 17 to what science looks like at a higher level. Coming from a background without much access to STEM opportunities, it was eye-opening. It was the first time I ever set foot in a university, the first time I visited a university library, and even the first time I was asked to carry out research there. Those moments gave me the powerful visualisation that “I can do this”.

During In2research, the sessions were valuable in helping me understand the pathways to a PhD: how to apply, what it involves, and whether it's the right option for me. The programme made me stop and really think, did I want to commit to a PhD, or would I rather head straight into industry? Having that insight was crucial, and it's something I continue to reflect on when planning my next steps.

Then for me, In2careers acted as a bridge between university and the professional world. It gave me a tool to communicate and network with people working in STEM, and the chance to gain exposure that isn't always easy to access. There are lots of other platforms out there, but In2careers felt different. It was open and accessible, and the workshops and events were much easier to join compared to other programmes that can be very selective.



It's actually difficult to pinpoint just one thing I've gained because I've developed so much. The In2careers programme in particular has become a part of me. It's shaped my journey and given me a strong belief in the idea of open-source STEM - making knowledge and opportunities more accessible. That's something I want to carry forward; spreading the word of science and showing others what's possible.

In2scienceUK has so much to offer, and it's brilliant to be part of. It makes science real for you; you're not just studying it in theory, you're experiencing it, learning through doing and being part of it.

I am currently working as a Systems Engineer - I want to be one of the leaders in STEM. For me, this has come full circle. I've gained so much from the programmes, and now I want to give back so that it can continue to grow, develop, and support even more people.”



Ashmin's story

“The main reason I applied for In2STEM is to really confirm what I want to do in the future and to help me figure out the paths that are available to me. No one in my family works in STEM and I had always been confused before about the industry or job I want to go into. It’s the summer before I apply to university, so getting a work placement is really important.

In school we have been taught about the theoretical side of things, like industrial designer and mechanical engineer and electronics, but we have never actually had hands-on experience with the CAD (Computer Aided Design) systems, the physical kits that transfer information.

This placement has been a great opportunity to put the theory into practical use. The company where my placement took place, PureLiFi, works on transferring data from light connections – it’s all really novel and interesting to me. We even ended up working on a robotic car!

I have learnt that networking with professionals and having those good communication skills are really fundamental. The hosts have made the placement feel super welcoming. The placement made me feel a lot more comfortable, and it’s made me realise that business and work life



doesn't have to be scary! I definitely feel more confident communicating – I've enjoyed seeing my development since my first day.

Being on this placement shows me the range of different things involved in STEM careers: you've got people working in finance, software and mechanical, electrical and optical engineering. The In2STEM workshops have definitely been helpful too, not just because of the information that they share, but because you are with other students who ask questions as well so you get different insights. In2STEM has made me certain that I want to go to university.”



○○●○○○○○ Click circles to navigate

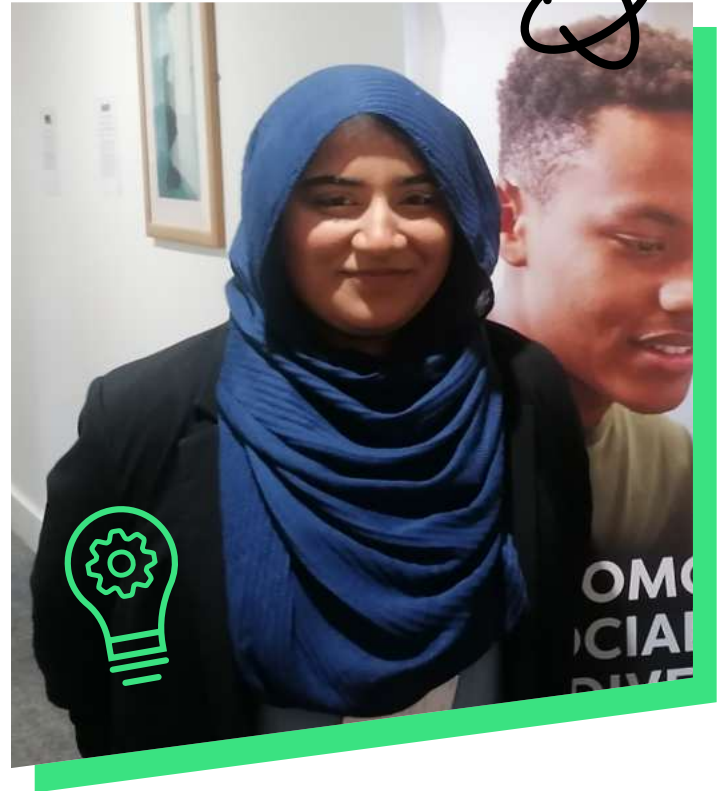
Tarteel's story

“In2scienceUK gave me the motivation and support to go for my dreams. I’ve wanted to study astrophysics since I was four years old - I wanted to answer questions like “why do we stick to the ground - why aren’t we all just floating around in the air?”

But when I studied physics at A level the class was tough and I was the only girl. I often had comments like “do you think you can really do this?” and I felt put off from going to university.

However, I found out about In2STEM in Year 12 and I was mentored by a Professor of Lunar and Planetary Science, who really encouraged me and gave me the motivation to apply for astrophysics at university. She showed me simulation data from NASA and introduced me to Python. In June, I graduated from my degree in astrophysics at Lancaster University and will be starting my master’s in autumn!

In2STEM taught me that I should chase my dreams. You just need a tiny bit of determination and support and you shouldn’t let anyone stop you. It was through In2STEM that I realised I can actually be a scientist!”





○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ Click circles to navigate

Palak's story

“I didn't have role models in my family, I'm the first to go to university and most of my friends are in different areas, often tech rather than research, so I felt quite alone. In2research and In2careers changed that by connecting me with role models and a network in my field.

In2research gives you real research experience, tailored workshops and mentoring, and show you how to approach supervisors and applications with confidence. If you're aiming for a STEM role or a PhD, it's one of the most supportive routes I've found and In2careers then keeps the momentum going with career panels, networking and opportunities you can put straight on your CV.

I originally joined In2careers looking for genuine networking opportunities. In2careers events and competitions opened doors I wouldn't have accessed otherwise, including a conference I couldn't afford on my own. I also wanted a way to build leadership, so mentoring on the first-year programme scheme helped me to do exactly that. Seeing my mentee grow from shy to confident was hugely rewarding, and I plan to keep mentoring. I've encouraged her to apply to In2research and explore a PhD. Overall, these experiences broadened my perspective and boosted my confidence.

In2careers has been really helpful. I don't think I would have secured my current role as a Biobank Research Assistant with UCL without it. Through events and debates, I've had access to opportunities



that shaped my professional outlook and taught me how to communicate my research to different audiences with confidence. In contrast to careers advice I've seen elsewhere, my In2careers mentors gave detailed, tailored advice and shared real experiences. It reassured me that I'm not alone, and it went much deeper into how to understand career paths and how to actually secure opportunities.

My In2research placement confirmed that a PhD is the right next step for me. I'm now preparing to apply for funded programmes opening in mid-September, and I'm feeling much more confident and ready because of In2research.”



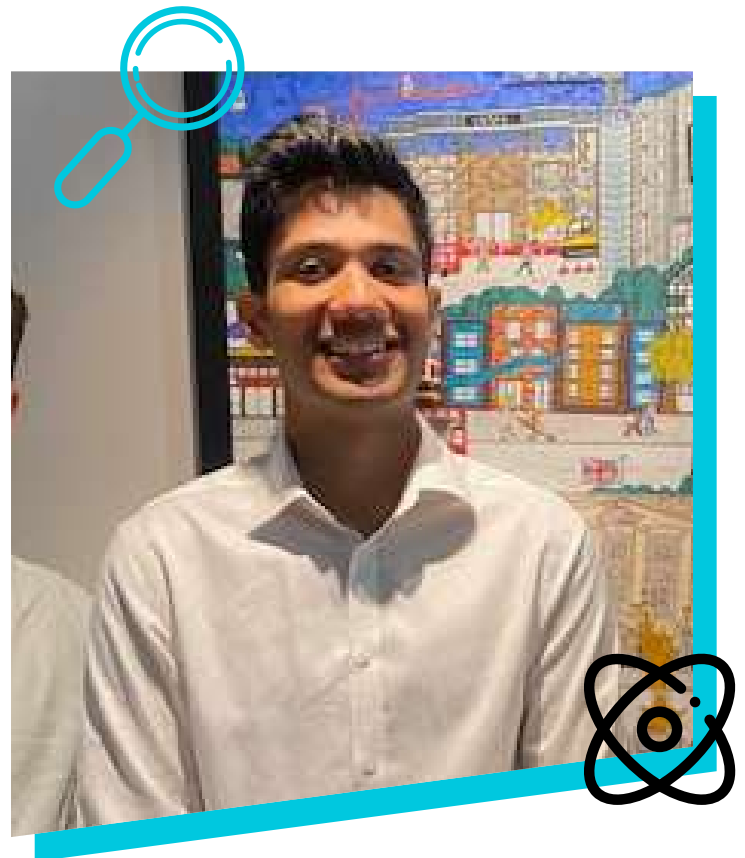
Khrish's story

“I have just completed my BSc in Actuarial Science at LSE, which is very STEM-focused with lots of maths and statistics, a subject I really enjoy. My university degree is somewhat niche, and many people aren't familiar with it, so having additional guidance and exposure through programmes like In2careers has been really valuable. I am about to start on the graduate scheme at Aon in the M&A division, and I plan to explore different directions within the industry as I progress in my career.

Through the In2careers Industry Mentorship scheme, I met a connection who introduced me to a junior Data Scientist mentor. Over eight months, my mentor provided consistent guidance, helped me understand recruitment processes, reviewed my CV and cover letter, and even conducted mock interviews. Having access to someone with real experience was incredibly helpful in preparing me for the next stage of my career.

In2careers has really helped me clarify my career direction and opened my eyes to opportunities I hadn't considered before. Through conversations with quantitative analysts and data scientists, I've been able to identify the aspects of roles I enjoy the most.

Attending networking events and having industry mentoring sessions has broadened my perspective on the types of roles available and showed me it's never too late to explore a different path. Sharing my knowledge and opportunities with mentees through the



peer mentoring scheme has helped me develop my communication skills and has been incredibly fulfilling, as I felt I could genuinely guide them in the right direction, a rare opportunity at a young age.

One of the best things about In2careers is being able to tap into everything the programme offers. I know I can reach out to the In2careers team whenever I need guidance or to be connected with someone, and the support and resources available are incredible.

I would definitely recommend taking part in an In2scienceUK programme. No matter what you're looking for, the programmes can support you, whether it's building connections, getting specific career advice, accessing mentorship when starting university, or making a smooth transition into further study.”



Farzana's story

“I became really interested in research and the idea of doing a PhD further down the line, but I didn't actually know what that involved. I'm the first in my family to go to university, so I had no idea what came after a degree. That's why In2research felt perfect, as it gave me eight weeks of hands-on experience and the chance to really see what a PhD looks like and how to apply.

At university I'd done some lab work, but this experience showed me what a real, ongoing research project looks like in practice. We've been working on two projects during the placement, the first looking at child vocalisation and maternal responses and the second looking at language in multilingual homes. Rana, my placement host, has been incredibly supportive. I've never had feedback as tailored and constructive as this before, and it was so useful in helping me improve my work.

My In2research experience has been so valuable, not just for my career, but also for how I think about my future. The mentoring was especially helpful. I had the chance to talk to someone working in the field I'm interested in, which helped me rethink how I approach my career. I've always loved psychology but wasn't sure how to narrow down what I wanted to do. My mentor really helped me reflect on what I align myself with and how to make choices, like which master's programme would suit me best.

Before In2research, I didn't really think I would pursue a PhD, but this experience has completely clarified my thoughts and informed my future plans. I now



definitely want to do a PhD in the future. The programme has really helped me gain confidence in working within research in my subject area. Right now, I'm leaning towards language research, especially in multilingual contexts.

Coming from a background where no one in my life has gone on to further study, I had never been exposed to it before. In2research has shown me the importance of postgraduate study and, more importantly, the value of actually enjoying the work you're doing. It's really flipped my perspective. I've realised it's okay to take time to figure things out, and now I feel much more confident that I'll do a master's next, and then a PhD further down the line. I feel I've got a much clearer idea of how to move forward in the future.”



○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ● Click circles to navigate

Sarkis' story

“The In2research programme fitted perfectly alongside my university studies. The workshops were incredibly valuable, particularly those on storytelling and how to communicate science and research. Being paired with a mentor also gave me practical guidance, especially on my CV, which was so useful at that stage of my degree. As I was in my third year, the advice on how to find opportunities in a competitive market felt very relevant.

One of the highlights was my research placement. It gave me the chance to make connections in academia and explore a field I hadn't considered before. Even the interview with my professor was a great experience. During the placement, I met lots of lab members, applied technical skills in practice, and even learned a completely new coding language. The project pushed me outside my comfort zone and into areas like bioengineering, which really broadened my perspective.

Through the programme I realised how transferable my Mechanical Engineering degree skills are, and I gained confidence that I could keep learning new skills and move between career paths. That was a big turning point for me.



I still keep in touch with my supervisor at UCL and recently attended a seminar he delivered. Overall, the programme opened my horizons, gave me transferable skills and helped me see the many different routes my career could take.

The In2scienceUK programmes are a great way to get a sense of the outside world and gain insights into the world of STEM careers.”



Reflections



This year has been one of fantastic opportunities for our beneficiaries. A highlight of mine was a visit alongside our In2careers participants to the JET fusion reactor, the hottest place in the solar system! Through joining the In2scienceUK community, young people across the UK have developed vital skills, knowledge and confidence to unlock their potential and overcome barriers to pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees and careers.

With the invaluable support of our volunteers, partners and funders, we've been able to reach 1,377 participants this year, expanding our impact to more communities. We are ever grateful to everyone who helped us to ensure young people can access high-quality STEM opportunities, regardless of background, ensuring that diverse voices drive the future STEM landscape.

As we move forward, we continue our commitment to support those for whom the world of STEM seems out of reach, particularly to help with developing future skills in a landscape being changed by technology.



– **Stephen Hancock**
In2scienceUK CEO



At In2scienceUK, we believe that background should not be a barrier to success.

In 2025, we have seen the transformative impact of our work across all three of our programmes. Our In2STEM programme welcomed sixth form students across the UK offering workshops, placements and insight into the breadth of careers available in STEM. Our In2research programme supported our largest ever cohort and launched in two new locations, Glasgow and Manchester, expanding access to postgraduate research experiences to new communities. Meanwhile, our In2careers programme provided targeted support to undergraduates and alumni, including peer mentoring to help first-year students navigate university and prepare for next steps in their careers.

One of the year's standout moments was our Celebration Event, bringing everyone together to reflect on the year's successes and recognise the outstanding contributions and achievements of our volunteers and participants.

Looking ahead, we're excited to open applications for In2STEM 2026, launch a new cohort of In2research and add to our alumni support so that more young people feel supported on their journey into STEM.

To our volunteers, delivery partners and supporters, thank you for your dedication to and belief in our mission. Together, we're building a more inclusive future in STEM.



– **Rebecca Jelbert**
Head of Programmes



In2research is run by In2scienceUK in collaboration with our delivery partners – a special thank you to:



Thank you to our supporters



ANIMAL WELFARE RESEARCH NETWORK



BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY



CANCER RESEARCH UK



Scotland Institute



Garfield Weston FOUNDATION



Medical Research Council

IPReg Intellectual Property Regulation Board

NIHR | University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre



Office for Students



NERC Panorama DTP
Training the next generation of environmental scientists



Quintessa



Royal Academy of Engineering



Schroder Charity Trust

SPRINGER NATURE



Teck



The Meads Trust



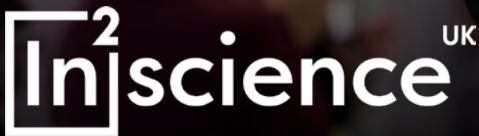
UK Dementia Research Institute

UKAS
A world of confidence



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

This report was edited and designed in collaboration with Research Retold [🔗](#)



Let's build a brighter future in STEM, together

Spread

the word about In2scienceUK in your network

Mentor

one of our beneficiaries to share your experience and insights

Invest

your support across our programmes or provide flexible financial sponsorship to support individuals

Lead

a workshop or contribute your expertise to a panel to help our participants navigate the world of STEM

Offer

exclusive opportunities such as careers panels or internships to our community

Host

a placement to connect with and support up-and-coming talent in your sector

Visit in2scienceuk.org or email development@in2scienceuk.org and find out how you can get involved today.



In2scienceUK is a registered charity (1164821) and company (07706662) in England and Wales and Scotland (SC053912). Our registered address is 605 Albert House, 256-260 Old Street, London, EC1V 9DD. Report published in December 2025.