

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

OVERVIEW

EDT is a UK-wide educational charity connecting young people with education and industry to inspire STEM careers, develop technical and employability skills, and provide real-world experiences of the workplace. Our aim is to inspire young people, build future-ready STEM skills and connect education with the world of work.

Industrial Cadets Progression

Challenger	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
				
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Discover STEM	Explore STEM	Develop STEM & career skills	Advanced industry project	Substantial industry experience

Future Pathways

Our programmes connect to key industry and government priorities to help young people develop the skills and insight needed for the future.



Net Zero & Clean
Energy



Health & Life
Sciences



Engineering &
Manufacturing



Digital & AI

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Why this matters: The UK skills challenge

Employers across growth sectors face persistent talent pipeline shortages, while many young people remain disconnected from industry pathways and opportunities.

Traditional engagement models often measure activity rather than impact. The Industrial Cadets Framework addresses this gap by providing structured progression that validates capability, confidence and readiness for work.



101,163

young people
engaged this
year

267

schools

2,700+

volunteer hours from
industry mentors

405,702

Industrial
Cadets
experiences
since 2011

179

companies
partnered

40%

female participants
(exceeding UK STEM's 28%
average)

49%

FSM-eligible students
(double the national 23%
average)

INDUSTRIAL CADETS

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

PROJECT MENTORING

Work to advise a group of 5-6 students, supported by a teacher, to work through a real-world STEM project brief.

Ideally in-person/hybrid.

Teams produce a written report, model, and presentation to a panel of STEM professionals.

Bronze Projects run for ~3 months, requiring ~4 hours contact, and less technical specialism.

Students aged 12-14 years old.

Gold Projects run for ~6 months, requiring ~10 hours contact, and more technical specialism. Gold mentors usually set their team a project brief relevant to their sector.

Students aged 16-17 years old.

Bronze: 4 hours across ~3 months

Gold: 10 hours across ~6 months

PLACEMENT MENTORING

Support a student/s on their paid year-long placement. Act as a sounding-board for their questions as they settle into their role, and become someone they can come to for advice throughout the year.

Where possible, we match mentors with students they could meet with in person, but online/hybrid mentoring is possible.

3-6 hours across 9-12 months

PROJECT ASSESSOR

Read student reports, listen to their presentations, and ask questions about their journey through the Bronze/Gold Project.

Provide written feedback to student teams & help nominate them for extra IC awards alongside a panel of other STEM professionals.
Usually online.

3-6 hours (including prep)

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PANEL SPEAKER

Speak on a panel alongside other STEM professionals.

Previous panel themes have included:

- Women in STEM
- Post-16 STEM Pathways
- Q&As

Usually online, with some opportunities to speak in person during our Summer celebrations.

~ 1-2 hours (including prep)

EXPERIENCE DAYS

Attend one of our Challenger Experience Days to support the hands-on delivery of a practical STEM workshop.

Workshops include:

- The Physics of Rollercoasters
- Colour-Coding 'Ozobots'
- Carbon Capture Eco Gardens
- The Science of Glue-Making

In-person in Primary & Secondary schools across the UK.

~ 2.5 hours

SITE VISIT

If your organisation can facilitate, we are always on the lookout for businesses our students can visit during our 'Routes Into STEM' courses, or virtual site tours we can share on our Learning Management System.

These courses take place during school holidays, and show students the various pathways into industry, usually with visits to companies, universities and colleges.

In-person, usually around larger cities during school holidays.

2.5 hours - full day (get in touch to discuss!)