

# Building skills for future careers

The **Research Placements & Experiences Programme** (formerly Nuffield Research placements), part of STEM Learning's Destination STEM offerings, has provided thousands of learners across the UK with valuable, hands-on experience in STEM related fields. Participants undertake research projects set by host organisations – ranging from practical experiments to data analysis, literature reviews, and even the development of outreach resources.

These projects either contribute directly to the organisation's goals or are organised to help students build essential skills for future STEM careers.

SSERC is pleased to offer an additional opportunity, new for 2026 - the **Learner Research Placement Programme**, funded by Ocean Winds. This also provides S5 learners with the chance to undertake summer research projects, but in addition to being suitable for those from disadvantaged backgrounds, this programme is also open to young people from ethnic minority backgrounds or those who live in rural areas.

Placements can take place onsite, hybrid or online for 2-3 weeks over the summer (anytime from June to mid-August) and students from the current year's S5 cohort are matched with a placement which interests them. The placement project, set by the mentor, will challenge them to work independently to investigate, explore, analyse, and then produce a report and scientific poster. Placements span a broad spectrum of subjects, from finance and physics to social sciences and geography.



## Who is it for?

S5 pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, first in their family to go to university, from ethnic minority backgrounds or live in a rural area

## Eligibility criteria

Learners must have 5 x Nat 5s at B, studying at least **one** STEM Higher and must meet at least **one** of the following:

- Family's combined income less than £40,000 per year.
- Entitled to free school meals.
- Live, or have lived, in local authority care.
- In receipt of, or entitled to, discretionary payments at school/college.
- First in Family to go to University.
- Ethnic Minority background.
- School is classed as Urban Rural Classification (URL) 3-6, rural and remote.

## Length of placement

2 (or 3 if required) weeks.

## When

**During the school summer holidays:**

fully face-to-face, hybrid or online.

## Outputs

Learners are required to produce a scientific or technical report and poster. This is showcased at a Celebration Event in September.

Participants will have the opportunity to work towards a Young STEM Leader Programme's STEM Leader 7 Award as part of their placement.

**Have a look at last year's Celebration Event at the University of Glasgow [here](#).**

For more information please [email](#) us.



**Interested?**  
**Get in touch!**



**UCL** Learner Research  
**RF** Placement

powered by



**MORAY EAST**  
OFFSHORE WINDFARM

**Research  
Placements &  
Experiences**

Formerly Nuffield Research Placements

[www@sserc.scot](http://www@sserc.scot)