

Student VR Welding Competition – 15 December 2025

This event is designed for secondary school and college students to take part in an exciting, hands-on welding competition themed around the offshore wind sector. Funded by Ocean Winds and delivered in partnership with SSERC, ESP, and NESCol, the event will see participants form mixed teams of five, including both school and college students. After training using Virtual Reality (VR) welding simulators, generously funded by Ocean Winds, each team will compete across several rounds to achieve the highest scores. In addition, participants will have the chance to hear from Ocean Winds about career opportunities in welding and offshore energy, take part in a variety of interactive STEM activities and be able to tour the welding facilities at NESCol.

Location: NESCol Skills Hub, Hareness Rd, Aberdeen AB12 3LE

The Energy Transition Skills Hub is operated by NESCol (North East Scotland College) which houses a state-of-the-art welding academy, advanced manufacturing zone and future technology digital training suites. It was officially opened in Aberdeen in September 2025.

Suitable for: Open to secondary school students who have an interest in developing practical skills and could potentially be keen on a career in welding. Age group is variable and at the discretion of teachers, but we would expect students to be in S3, S4, S5 or S6. A mix of age groups is acceptable.

Places available: Numbers of students attending from each school will depend on applications received, but the expectation is 6 students per school. If you have more, let us know in the application form. There will be a total of 36 school students and 24 college students.

Travel: Travel, snacks and lunch are funded by Ocean Winds

Agenda:

9:30 Doors open for students

9:50 Introductions to all and itinerary for day

10:00 Session 1 & 2: Training sessions on kits, STEM Activities, 1st round of competitions

11:00 Break - tea/coffee/juice/biscuits provided

11:15 Session 3: 2nd round of competitions & STEM Activities

11:45 Talk from OW / Tour of welding area

12:15 Lunch

13:00 Final round for all teams, top 6 teams compete, top 2 teams compete

14:45 Prizes/Presentations

15:00 close

To apply – please complete the application form at

<https://forms.office.com/e/mvdXA6kG0Z>

More information contact aileen.hamilton@sser.scot