

Nuffield Research Placements: Year one successes

At the end of last year, SSERC was delighted to take on the coordination of Nuffield Research Placements (NRPs) in Scotland.



The NRP Programme provides an opportunity for S5 learners from disadvantaged backgrounds to develop a wide range of skills through an engaging, real-world STEM research placement experience.

Our first set of placements have now been completed for summer 2022 with a total of 90 young people within an array of different STEM organisations including: Howden, Siemens, Spirit AeroSystems, ThermoFisher, and many of the Scottish universities.

Learners worked closely with STEM professionals on 2-3 week independent research projects from a great variety of different areas including renewable energy engineering, digital chemistry, vaccine development, and software coding. With the support of their supervisor, learners planned their projects, collected and analysed their data, and have reported on their findings.

One of our learners has even gone on to collaborate on a scientific publication with their supervisor!

One of the highlights this year was that six young people we placed at the University of Glasgow's School of Chemistry had the opportunity to meet Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021 winner Professor Sir David MacMillan. We are very grateful to placement hosts Dr Beth Paschke, Dr Frances Docherty, and Dr Cosma Gottardi for giving them the opportunity.



We have had lots of fantastic feedback from participants about their placements. One of our learners who was hosted by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) said:

"I've had a great time at my placement, it was really awesome to see and work in SAMS and I have really enjoyed my project. I've also got to speak to some really interesting people, and I think this will have been great experience and look great for when I (hopefully) apply to study at SAMS when I leave high school. It's been a great experience overall and I'm so glad I was able to do it."

Applications will open soon for summer 2023 placements. If you are interested in the programme for current S5 learners, please contact laura.gordon@sserc.scot to arrange an information session for your school. <<

**To learn more about
Nuffield Research
Placements visit**
<https://www.stem.org.uk/nuffield-research-placements>