

The Big Bang Fair 2018 STEM Inspiration Volunteer

Where: The NEC, Birmingham Dates: 14 - 17 March 2018 Time: 8am-4pm	Role: STEM Inspiration Volunteer Contact: Elena, Volunteer Manager EMartin-Laguna@engineeringuk.com
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Overview

[The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair](#) is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for young people in the UK.

The Big Bang Fair is an award-winning combination of exciting theatre shows, interactive workshops and exhibits and careers inspiration from STEM professionals.

We aim to show young people (primarily aged 7-19) the exciting and rewarding opportunities out there for them with the right experience and qualifications, by bringing classroom learning to life.

Why do we need you?

The Big Bang Fair needs you to share your time and energy to help ensure our 'Meet the Future You' careers networking activity runs smoothly. This is a fun and interactive activity which provides a fantastic **opportunity to bust myths and shine light** on the real, working world of STEM.

Having grown from 6,500 visitors in its first year (2009) to over 70,000 in 2017, we simply couldn't do it without the support of our amazing volunteers. We need over **400 volunteers for next year's Fair**. During the application process, you will have the opportunity to select the day(s) that you would like to attend.

What activities will you be involved in?

This is a **very public-facing role**. It is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic individual looking to engage and inspire young people, and give them a much clearer idea of what scientists, engineers and those who work and study in STEM fields do.

As a STEM Inspiration Volunteer, you would be involved in the **'Meet the Future You' activity** that takes place in a large, inflatable dome.

- Taking part in a series of structured and timed workshops facilitated by a professional presenter.
- Answering questions from young visitors about your job. Questions like:
How did you get your job?
What are the best and worst bits of your job?
What advice would you give a young person interested in your sector? ...and much, much more!

What skills and abilities are we looking for?

Our volunteers play a vital role in making The Big Bang Fair a massive success. We are looking for volunteers who are **friendly, reliable and enjoy working with young people**.

We are looking for volunteers at **every stage of their STEM career** – apprentices, PhD researchers and people who have been working for many years. We want to hear from you if you are a developer, a doctor, a biologist, a physicist, an engineer... the list is endless and we need as many areas as possible represented to make it worthwhile for the young visitors. We are especially looking for these qualities in our volunteers:



The Big Bang

UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair

- Welcoming and polite manner towards visitors.
- Supportive and enthusiastic to help our young visitors feel comfortable to ask questions freely.
- A natural communicator who is happy to share information about their education and career path.
- Ability to motivate and inspire young people, helping them to relate their interests to potential STEM-related subjects.
- Energy, passion and a love of talking about their specialist area.

What can you gain from this opportunity?

- Having a **rewarding experience** making a difference to young people's career aspirations and inspiring them to consider different pathways.
- Showing them how their studies could lead to a career in science, technology, engineering or maths.
- Extensive **networking** opportunities, joining an enthusiastic team of people.
- Practical and hands-on experience in an **exceptional educational event**, enjoyed by visitors of all ages.
- Opportunity to progress and become a Team Leader Volunteer.

Most importantly, you will have a fun day!

Is there an induction and learning and development?

We aim to give all our volunteers a unique experience at the Big Bang Fair. We will provide you with training and support throughout your volunteering role:

- **Interactive induction** for new volunteers (45 mins, online).
- **Specific training** for all STEM Inspiration Volunteers (45 mins, online).
- Volunteer **Handbook** and briefing documents.
- On-site **briefing** on the day (30 mins, face to face). Arrival 8 am for a prompt start at 8.15 am. If you are volunteering more than one day you don't need to attend the briefing on the following day.
- On-site **support and supervision** from the Volunteer Manager, Head of Careers and Team Leaders Volunteers.

Who should you contact? What are the next steps?

You will need to complete an application form, available online. For more information about the roles, please contact **Elena Laguna (Volunteer Manager)** on EMartin-Laguna@engineeringuk.com or 07934295509.

New applicants will have to attend an **Induction webinar (online)**. Volunteers who have not attend the Fair before will have the opportunity to find out more about this unique experience, and ask any questions that they may have.

