

Leading the way in STEM

The current academic year has seen the launch of our Leadership in STEM Education professional learning course for both early years & primary and secondary cohorts. This course represents a significant addition to our list of professional learning offers for educators in Scotland, and the pilot year is proving to be a success.

This course is designed to offer a unique personal and professional development journey for our delegates and aims to offer something different from other leadership courses that are currently available. A particular USP is that whilst many aspiring Principal Teachers or Faculty Heads work with us, it's not just designed for them. Some of our delegates want to build their knowledge, skills and professional abilities to develop experience as leaders of STEM in their respective centres. Promotion? Perhaps one day, but their main focus is to continue to be highly effective practitioners and leaders of STEM learning in their centre.



The six-unit course is a blend of online, face-to-face and independent research and study. Spanning around 160 hours, the course covers a broad range of professional learning topics. Aligned to the GTCS standards for career-long professional learning and middle leadership means the content and learning is set at SCQF Level 11.

Some of the activities involved in this course are listed below.

The delivery team at SSERC doesn't just support our delegates; each of them has the commitment from their Headteacher and In-school Coach to ensure they are given the time and opportunity to complete a range of research and leadership tasks back at their centre. Furthermore, the course is designed to bring as many external partners and agencies together as possible, all working together with SSERC to put the practitioner at the centre, encouraging them to see themselves as the learner, with input from:

Some of the six-unit course activities...

- ✓ Developing academic writing skills and engaging with publications at Masters Level.
- ✓ Exploring key current educational policies in STEM and measuring their impact.
- ✓ Carrying out self-evaluation and improvement activities in their centre.
- ✓ Developing and understanding management and leadership skills, theory and practice.
- ✓ Analysing their own leadership skills and potential through the views of themselves and others.
- ✓ Investigating the range of STEM engagement opportunities that exist in Scotland and how they can impact and enhance the learner journey.
- ✓ Completing a professional enquiry on a key area relevant to their setting.

- GTCS
- Education Scotland
- Skills Development Scotland
- Strathclyde and Stirling Universities
- Experts and consultants in leadership and management strategies
- Organisations that support STEM education



Activities & Professional Learning

"Our Leadership in STEM Education course is the latest in a series of professional learning opportunities supporting the education community in Scotland.

It means we have professional learning offerings to support (STEM) teachers at all stages of their education career, all recognised by the GTCS as supporting professional development."

Alastair MacGregor, CEO - SSERC

"The Leadership in STEM course has really helped me to gain confidence in taking on leadership tasks and roles within the school. The connections and discussions we have are inspiring and have shaped my thinking of how I would like a department to look and work when I move into a promoted post."

Mark Melrose - Ross High School

"The course has been extremely beneficial and has enhanced my knowledge of all areas of leadership. It has provided insight from experts in different areas, allowed valuable time to discuss with like-minded colleagues, and provided challenge to enhance my skills and knowledge."

Jodie McGeehan - St Andrew's RC Secondary

Leadership in STEM Education course

"This Leadership course has been a fantastic opportunity to network with staff from across Scotland. It has also allowed an opportunity to consider my school's implementation of the STEM agenda. Through visiting speakers, online engagement, and group work with peers, I feel I have been given a great platform to improve my leadership skills and have gained invaluable advice."

Kyle Henderson - Dunblane High School

"This course is invaluable for any practitioners interested in leading STEM activities and providing further STEM opportunities in their centre. From exploring the National priorities in STEM to gaining valuable insight into your own leadership qualities, the content is well thought out and relevant, with delivery from excellent external speakers.

As an experienced Principal Teacher, I have benefitted enormously from all aspects of this course and would highly recommend this to anyone, no matter where they are on their Leadership journey."

Amanda McVicar - Douglas Academy

Next steps

SSERC is working with GTCS to gain Professional Accreditation for this course, meaning that delegates who complete the course can be considered with the accomplished expertise they deserve. It is our hope that this course will continue to offer transformational learning for educators across Scotland in the early years, primary and secondary



settings and whilst we will reflect on any changes and improvements we can make, with the valued feedback from our inaugural cohort, we will be ready to recruit for year two very soon.

Interested?

If you would like to know more about our Leadership in STEM Education course or are considering applying for a place for 2023/2024, please visit: <https://www.sserc.org.uk/professional-learning/secondary-clpl/leadership-in-stem/>

