



New programme manager for the Young STEM Leader Programme

At the end of 2023 SSERC was delighted to appoint a new Programme Manager for The Young STEM Leader Programme (YSLP). This programme continues to grow from strength to strength with over 900 centres and 15000 young people having engaged with the programme since its inception. Below we find out a bit more about Dr Sharon Macnab and the opportunities that participating in the Young STEM Leader Programme offers.

Having recently taken up the post of Programme Manager for YSLP, I've been fully immersed in supporting the rollout and development of this fantastic programme.

I've been completely in awe of the impact the programme has had on learners, their teachers and other Tutor Assessors. Seeing young people inspire, lead and mentor their peers, their families and their communities through the creation and delivery of STEM activities, events and interactions really builds young people's confidence, communication and teamworking skills all within a STEM context.

One of the strengths of the programme is that it is very much a learner-centred approach, with the young people having ownership over the direction of their activities. Not only do they research and dispel stereotypes in STEM, but they themselves become STEM role models for others, building STEM capital. The programme is delivered in many ways and whilst the following is not an exhaustive list, it highlights some of the amazing work that is being undertaken in our schools across the country. We have senior pupils leading STEM clubs with S1 classes and similarly BGE pupils supporting transition activities and



Dr Sharon Macnab.

the move to high school for P7's. Science Fairs have been delivered full of parents, carers and other visitors but developed and hosted by young people. Young STEM Leaders have produced creative science podcasts, run homework clubs or supported study sessions .

The key thread of YSLP is that it is for young people, by young people, and supporting your learners to complete a Young STEM Leader Award is an excellent way to engage your whole learning community with STEM - and it's free for any school, youth centre or community organisation in Scotland. >>



STEM Engagement

THERE ARE 2 VERSIONS OF THE PROGRAMME:

Non-Formal

The non-formal version of the programme is offered at Curriculum for Excellence Second, Third and Fourth Levels (known as YSL2, YSL3 and YSL4 (non-formal)). Each of these awards comprises four badges (Discover, Create, Inspire and Lead) and the completion of all four, leads to an award certificate for the Young STEM Leaders. These awards are delivered typically, but not only, in primary schools and the Broad General Education phase in Secondary schools with learners at these curricular levels.

Formal

The formal version of the programme comprises four awards, at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Levels 4, 5 and 6 (known as YSL4 (formal), YSL5 and YSL6). Level 7 (known as STEM Leader 7) will launch in August 2024 and more detail on this can be found below. Formal levels are typically delivered in the senior phase of secondary schools, further education settings and within apprenticeship programmes. With these accredited awards, learners achieve SCQF Credit Points upon completion. Insight tariff points for relevant centres are also available and YSL6 and SL7 also feature on the UCAS system.

All Young STEM Leader Awards are supported by a host of resources and support notes, with logbooks for the young people to track and record their STEM Leadership journey.



These are all available through an online portal, giving the added benefit of enabling young people to upload videos, photos etc., however, paper copies are also available.

New! STEM Leader 7



After consultation with Tutor Assessors across the country, and with support of Ocean Winds and the SCQF Partnership, the Young STEM Leader Team has been working in partnership to develop a new Award in STEM Leadership at SCQF Level 7.

Launching in August 2024 STEM Leader (SL7) is designed for learners aged 16+ in the senior phase, further education and other educational settings – including community learning. Through completing a research project generated by the learners' own interest, and linked the UN Sustainable Development Goals, learners will gather and submit evidence. The SL7 journey will measure and develop their leadership skills, ask them to design a "Project Question", and find solutions and recommendations for this question whilst engaging the support of an individual, group or organisation who are specialists in the field. This will inform, advise and contribute to their work and place their project in the context of STEM in the wider world. A pilot of the STEM Leader 7 award is currently taking place and it will be open to everyone to sign up to starting in August 2024. 30-minute Information Sessions and Tutor Assessors Training Sessions will run from May 2024 so please sign up our [website](#).



How to get involved

It's easy to start delivering the Young STEM Leader Programme by becoming a Tutor Assessor (TA). Training takes two hours, for levels 2-6, and one hour for level 7. Training can be delivered as an online twilight session by SSERC staff, or if you have a group/cluster of teachers then we can come along for a face-to-face training session.

The training covers the award details, delivery approaches, assessment and verification. Our bespoke online platform for marking and reviewing evidence is also part of the training process. Training events run monthly throughout the year and you can book a session at www.youngstemleader.scot/events.

Post training you'll join a professional network of almost 3000 Tutor Assessors and have access to support from the SSERC Team and further opportunities for training, sharing and meet sessions.

There's lots more information on [our website](#) so please take a few minutes to find out more and join the Young STEM Leader Community.

If you need any more information at all, please email us at youngstemleader@sserc.scot. <<