

STEM Panellist



Volunteering at The Big Bang Fair [video >](#)

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. Everything we do is aimed at showing young people how many exciting and rewarding opportunities there are out there for them with the right experience and qualifications.

- Where: The NEC, Birmingham
- Dates: 11 – 14 March 2020
- Time: 8am – 4pm
- Contact: Laura Mwangi, Community Engagement Manager (volunteers@thebigbangfair.co.uk)

Why do we need you?

The Big Bang Fair needs you to share your time and passion to help ensure our careers activities run smoothly. This is a high energy, interactive activity which provides a fantastic **opportunity to bust myths and shine light on the real, working world of STEM.**

With over 80,000 visitors expected in 2020, The Big Bang Fair couldn't run without the support of our amazing volunteers. We need over 400 volunteers for next year's Fair. **You can volunteer a minimum of 1 day and up to 4 days**

What activities will you be involved in?

We are seeking diverse **role models to participate in 25-minute STEM career talks in the Careers Cabin.** These informal talks will take place at intervals throughout the day and will be hosted by a presenter in front of audiences of up to 150 visitors. Each talk will involve 3 to 4 scientists and engineers being interviewed about what they do.

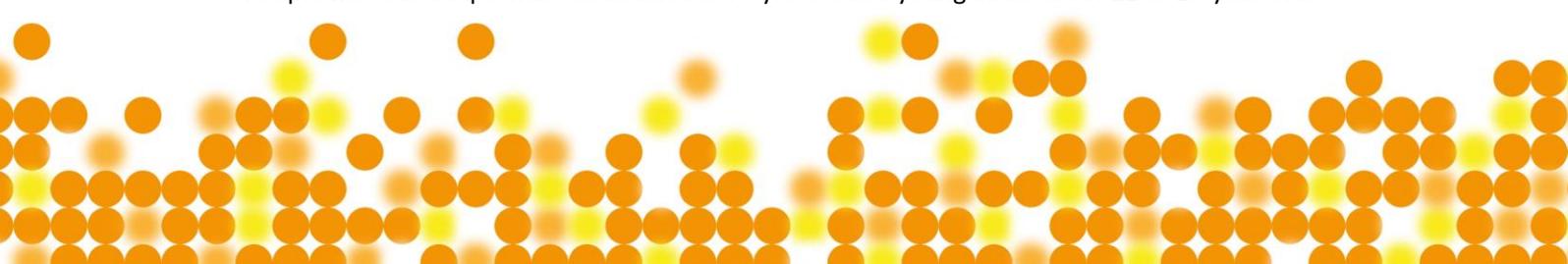
The purpose of the career talks is to bring to life the amazing jobs that young people could one day consider having and to give visitors the opportunity to understand some of the routes they could take into STEM.

The presenter will facilitate the discussion and will encourage the audience to ask questions during the talk. After the talk has finished, visitors will be able to talk to the panellists in smaller groups or on a one-to-one basis.

What skills and abilities are we looking for?

We are looking for **scientists and engineers** and those who work in STEM jobs, who are, above all, **enthusiastic about what they do** - whether they are an apprentice, graduate, career starter or professional with years of experience.

- Confident communicators (you will be speaking in front of an audience of up to 100 visitors). Presentation skills training will be provided, and the show is presented by a professional host.
- People who can convey their passion for what they do
- People who can adapt their communication style to suit a young audience of 11 to 19-year-olds



Please see below some of the questions that STEM panellists will be asked at the Careers talks:

- What's the most exciting or rewarding project you've been part of in the last year?
- How does what you do change people's lives?
- What did you enjoy most at school/college?
- What do you find most challenging about where you work?

What are the requirements for this role?

- All-day commitment, with several breaks throughout the day.
- **Screening and selection process** – we are looking for a maximum of 12 to 16 panellists per day. We need to make sure our chosen panellists represent different STEM disciplines and come from different backgrounds. Upon receipt of your application form, we may ask you to submit a **30-second clip** describing what you do in an informal way, as if speaking to a 12-year-old.

This role involves being on your feet and moving around the show floor. If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact us as soon as possible so we can discuss any reasonable adjustments.

View our volunteering and diversity and inclusion policies [here](#).

What can you gain from this opportunity?

- A rewarding experience making a difference to young people's career aspirations and inspiring them to consider different pathways.
- An opportunity to show young people how their studies could lead to a career in science, technology, engineering or maths.
- Experience of speaking to audiences of up to 150 visitors, at an exceptional educational event.
- Extensive networking opportunities, joining an enthusiastic team of people.
- Access to coaching from a professional presenter.

Most importantly, you will have a fun day!

Is there any training?

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:

- Role specific training (2-hour, face-to-face on the 14 of Jan in Birmingham or 27 of Feb in London).
- Volunteer **Handbook** and learning materials.
- **On-site volunteer briefing** on the day (30 mins, face to face).
- **On-site briefing** and coaching on the day with the professional facilitator (face-to-face).
- **On-site support and supervision** from Volunteer Manager, Careers team and volunteer team leaders.

What are the next steps?

To apply, please complete the online application form [here](#). If you have any questions regarding the role please contact Laura Mwangi, volunteers@thebigbangfair.co.uk.

