


# BIG BANG FAIR

## STEM PANELLIST



The Big Bang Fair aims to inspire and encourage all young people to discover exciting possibilities in STEM.

The Big Bang Fair 2022 will be taking place from the 22 to 24 June 2022 at the NEC Birmingham bringing classroom learning to life, connecting young people to inspiring role models in science, technology, engineering, and maths, and with an overarching imperative to reach young people from groups underrepresented in STEM.

- **Where:** The NEC, Birmingham
- **Dates:** 22 to 24 June 2022
- **Time:** 9.30 am to 3.30pm or 4pm to 8pm on the 23rd
- **Contact** Arran Goodchild, Volunteers Manager ([agoodchild@engineeringuk.com](mailto:agoodchild@engineeringuk.com))

### WHY DO WE NEED YOU?

The Big Bang Fair needs you to share your time and passion to help ensure our careers inspiration 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 30,000 young people expected, The Big Bang Fair couldn't run without the support of our amazing volunteers. We need over 400 volunteers for this 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 a diverse range of panellists to participate in 30 to 40 minute STEM career talks on one of our 3 stages. 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 STEM professionals being interviewed about what they do.

The themes for this year's Fair are environment and sustainability, healthcare and wellbeing, and new frontiers. In addition to curating panel talks that reflect these overarching themes, we would like to host specific panels on areas such as apprenticeships, environmental activists, disabled STEM professionals, women in STEM, creativity in STEM and 'extraordinary careers'. We will also host a debate for the first time at The Big Bang Fair.





The purpose of the career talks is to bring to life the amazing jobs that young people could one day consider doing 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

### **WHAT SKILLS AND ABILITIES ARE WE LOOKING FOR?**

We are looking for scientists, engineers, technicians, and people who work in STEM jobs, who are 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 150 visitors, panellist speaker training will be provided ahead of the event, and the show is presented by a professional host)
- people who can convey their passion for what they do
- people who enjoy a fast-paced, lively environment – it can get noisy
- people who can adapt their communication style to suit a young audience of 11 to 14-year-olds
- people who can be flexible and work well with others

We are particularly looking for panellists who come from groups that are currently under-represented in STEM and who can represent the diversity of the STEM workforce. This includes women, disabled professionals, people who identify as LGBTQ+, people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and those from lower socioeconomic groups.

Please see below some of the questions that STEM panellists can expect to be asked:

- where do you work, what do you do and who do you work with?
- how does what you do benefit society or change people's lives?
- what did you enjoy most at school/college?
- what do you find most challenging about your work?





## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

We are looking for several in-person and virtual panellists:

- In-person:
  - attendance at pre-event training (likely to be run virtually)
  - an all-day commitment at the event (approximately 8.30am to 4pm) with several breaks throughout the day
  - if you are on a panel for the Big Bang Unlocked session for families (Thursday 23rd June 4 to 8pm), your panel will take place in the evening and attendance hours may differ
  - a morning briefing and warm-up
  - participating as a general career volunteer when not on stage as a panellist (e.g., speaking to visitors around the Fair about your job)
  - wear an 'I'm a scientist/I'm an engineer' t-shirt (provided) to identify yourself to visitors
- Virtual:
  - attendance at pre-event training (likely to be run virtually)
  - a pre-event tech rehearsal
  - a good internet connection and set up in a private space
  - availability during the panel (plus 30-minutes prior to the panel)

## SCREENING AND SELECTION PROCESS

We are looking for a maximum of 30 panellists per day. We want our chosen panellists to be able to represent a diverse range of STEM professionals from varied backgrounds, with varied experiences and from a range of STEM disciplines. Upon receipt of your application form, we may ask you to submit a 30-second recorded clip describing what you do in an informal way, as if speaking to a 12-year-old.

The in-person 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 that could be made, to facilitate your participation.





## 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 STEM volunteers from many different organisations
- access to training from a professional presenter

Most importantly, you will have a fun day!

View our volunteering policies [here](#).

## 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
- volunteer handbook
- on-site volunteer briefing on the day
- 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 Arran Goodchild ([agoodchild@engineeringuk.com](mailto:agoodchild@engineeringuk.com))

