

Ambassador Profiles

Name *Daryl Williamson*

Occupation: *Materials Engineer*

What were your interests when you were at school?

I enjoyed all the STEM subjects: maths, sciences and technical drawing (showing my age there!).

Outside of school, I enjoyed sailing, windsurfing and canoeing.



As a student were you able to take advantage of any STEM type activities outside the usual school timetable?

I attended a WISE event (Women in Science & Engineering) when I was in my last year of secondary school.

If so, how did this influence your career path?

I already knew I wanted to go to University to study a Science or Engineering subject, but it gave me some ideas about possible careers.

What are your roles and responsibilities in your workplace now?

As a Materials Engineer, my responsibilities include the research, development and specification of materials used in the company's range of subsea and downhole connectors. The connectors are supplied to the oil and gas industry so the materials have to be suitable for harsh environments and they include high performance polymers, corrosion resistant alloys, coatings, adhesives and ceramics. As well as managing the testing laboratory, I provide advice on materials and processing issues to other departments such as Engineering, Supply Chain, Quality and Manufacturing.

Why did you decide to become a STEM ambassador?

I heard about the STEM Ambassador programme through my employer and after reading about it on the internet, I knew I wanted to contribute. I would like to help promote awareness of the careers available in Science & Engineering and in particular, encourage more girls to enter these careers.

What do you feel are the positive outcomes of being a STEM Ambassador?

For yourself?

It is a change from the usual work routine and it is fun!

For the pupils taking part in the activity?

Hopefully, they will find the activities exciting and interesting and they will be inspired to think about Science & Engineering as a possible career.

For the teaching staff accompanying the pupils?

Hopefully, contact with STEM Ambassadors can highlight the diverse range of careers open to those following STEM subjects and help teachers, who probably do not have any industrial experience, to understand the needs of industry better.

Which STEM activity have you enjoyed the most and why?

I helped run a STEM after-school design & technology club for Year 5 pupils at a local primary school. We were making moving models which incorporated cam mechanisms. The pupils progressed from copying a design from a worksheet in the first few weeks to designing their own models later on. As it ran over several weeks, I got to know the pupils better. I had more time to talk to them and hopefully pass on my enthusiasm for STEM.

What was your role in this activity?

At first, I helped the pupils to gather the required materials and follow the instructions to create a moving model. As the weeks progressed, I encouraged them to plan their own design, and offered practical assistance.

Do you think being a STEM Ambassador has enhanced your career in anyway?

It enhances my professional visibility which my company takes into account when considering promotion.

Do you have any advice for people who are considering becoming a STEM ambassador?

It is very rewarding, so my advice is go for it!!