

# Is your business struggling to find the right people?



## Ireland needs more young people pursuing careers in science, engineering and technology.

The EU has some 864,000 unfilled jobs in the ICT sector alone with Ireland expected to have 44,500 jobs to fill in this area before by 2019.

Only by working together will we make the step change necessary to inspire the future STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) talent pool. Your organisation is made up of diverse and dynamic role models. Learning from these people about their lives and their careers is the richest form of inspiring young people. Smart Futures is looking for role models to volunteer and help encourage young people to take up STEM subjects and careers.

## About Smart Futures

Smart Futures is a collaborative government-industry-education programme, managed by Science Foundation Ireland in partnership with the Engineers Ireland STEPS programme and over 50 organisations nationwide, promoting STEM careers to second-level students.

We provide the necessary training, tools and support to our volunteers to give career talks aimed at secondary schools across the country. Volunteers can contribute as much or as little time as suits; the programme is flexible and designed to fit around a busy schedule and at any location.

## Why it matters?

Greater student engagement is needed to increase the number of students taking STEM related courses and to provide talented workers for the future. Research shows that the key factor influencing young people's career choices is that they will fit in. Together we need to challenge stereotypes so young people can see and identify with the diversity of people that work in STEM. Having a role model can be hugely empowering, encouraging them to explore opportunities they might otherwise miss.

## How does your organisation benefit?

- ▶ By futureproofing your future talent needs
- ▶ By challenging STEM stereotypes you'll encourage a diversity of future new recruits
- ▶ Through free training and delivery your team develop communication, organisation and presentation skills
- ▶ Your organisation's reputation, trust and credibility within the community is enhanced
- ▶ Employees develop a fresh perspective and an understanding of how to deal with an audience, while boosting their confidence and self-esteem
- ▶ Motivate, engage and retain staff
- ▶ Employees gain a sense of achievement and make a difference within their local community

## What will volunteering involve?

As part of Smart Futures volunteers will:

- ▶ Receive training
- ▶ Visit students in their classroom
- ▶ Showcase their career pathway and involvement in the STEM sector in the classroom and online
- ▶ Get involved at career events and/or Science Week

## How to get involved?



Contact us at [smartfutures@sfi.ie](mailto:smartfutures@sfi.ie) or call 01 607 3015



Visit [www.smartfutures.ie](http://www.smartfutures.ie)