



# STEM Career Investigation

The STEM career or occupation I have chosen to investigate is \_\_\_\_\_

Research the STEM career and provide a description of the day-to-day role and work tasks involved in the job.

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The decisions students make about third level courses or career choices are often influenced by entry requirements, Leaving Certificate subjects studied, pay, the labour market, location, skills and qualities associated with the career. Use the [Career Explorer website](#) to find information related to your chosen STEM career on each of the above factors that can influence career choices.

## STEM Career:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Pay

### Job Prospects/Labour Market

### Qualities/Skills Needed

### Subject Knowledge

### Entry Route

*I.e. Apprentice, Degree, PLC Course*

### Location (Local/National/International)

*I.e. Where are the jobs located*

### Travel Opportunities with Career Choice

### Opportunities for Career Progression

It is important for students to look beyond the title of the course or career in order to understand what is really involved in pursuing this path and whether it suits their interests, skills, and personal values.

Use the [SmartFutures.ie](http://SmartFutures.ie) or [CareersPortal.ie](http://CareersPortal.ie) website to listen to an interview from a person who is currently working in the career area that you are investigating.



Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Record three key points mentioned by the person working in the career you choose to investigate.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Work experience offers a valuable opportunity to gain an understanding of the world of work and allows you to explore the career area further. It can give a deep insight into what certain jobs really entail. Some companies and industries even run career talks, placements, workshops and competitions for post-primary students to get an insight into what life is like working in their STEM career area.

- Use the [Careers Portal Work Experience tool](#) to search for work placement opportunities in your career area of investigation. Did you find any? If so, what one interested you?
- Would there be work experience opportunities in your career area close-by? Ask your guardian or contact work places locally to find out.
- Use the [SmartFutures.ie](http://SmartFutures.ie) website to forecast if there are any upcoming talks, taster days or programmes running that you could get involved in that are related to your chosen STEM career investigation.
- Research upcoming competitions that you could get involved in outside of school.



# Pathway to the STEM Career

When students have completed the Leaving Certificate, they may apply for studies from Level 5 to Level 8. Level 9 and 10 are master's and PhD courses, which require a student to have completed a Level 8 degree to be considered for entry.

- ❑ **Apprenticeships** are programmes of formal education and training. It combines learning in your place of work, with learning in an education or training centre. On successful completion of several phases of training, apprentices become recognised craftspeople or professionals.
- ❑ **Level 5** courses are generally available at further education colleges. They are also commonly referred to as PLC courses. Students are normally invited for interview and, as these colleges are not part of the CAO system, no points are required. A QQI Level 5 or Level 6 qualification can lead to further studies at third level.
- ❑ **Level 6** qualifications are also known as higher certificates. This level can be accessed both by making a CAO application or by applying for certain courses in further education colleges.
- ❑ **Level 7** degrees are known as ordinary degrees. Students mainly apply for these courses through the CAO, while some private colleges offer Level 7 courses outside of the CAO system.
- ❑ **Level 8** degrees are also known as an honours degree. Students mainly apply for these courses through the CAO, with some private colleges offering Level 8 courses outside of the CAO system.

Source: [CareersPortal.ie](http://CareersPortal.ie)

**It is important to consider the educational and training requirements that are needed for your chosen STEM career .You can find valuable information on a specific course by looking at the prospectus or the website of the course provider. Other useful websites include;**

### Course Finder:

CourseFinder allows you to search for CAO & Direct Entry Higher Education courses.

### Qualifax:

A website providing information on further and higher education and training options in Ireland and further afield.

### CAO:

The CAO website allows you to search for courses by institution or keyword that can be applied for through the CAO system.

## Course Research for your STEM Career

Research what educational and training requirements are required for your chosen STEM career. Find a suitable course online and complete the table below to showcase the details of the course.

<b>Course Name:</b> _____	<b>Course Provider:</b> _____
<b>Entry Route</b> (CAO system/Apprenticeship)	
<b>Qualification from Course</b> (Level 5/6/7/8)	
<b>Number of Places on the Course</b>	
<b>Entry Requirements</b> (Leaving Cert subjects needed/CAO points needed/Interview/Portfolio)	
<b>Mode of Study</b> (Online/Full-time/Part-time/Blended Learning/Practical Elements/Research Elements)	
<b>Location of Course</b>	
<b>Duration of Course</b>	
<b>Hours of Tuition per Week.</b>	
<b>Modules in Year One</b>	
<b>Modules in Year Two</b>	
<b>Modules in Year Three</b>	
<b>Modules in Year Four</b>	
<b>Career Opportunities from the Course</b>	

**Evaluation:**

From completing my STEM career investigation on \_\_\_\_\_, I now know

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

From reflecting on the personal values, interests and skills, I am still interested/ no longer interested in this career path.

Reasons why I am still interested/no longer interested include;

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes: