

Actual STEM People

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to share your story with students all around the world!

Our aim at Actual STEM People is to build a repository of stories by and about people who actually work in STEM professions. Students, and society at large, tend to have a narrow view of what it means to work in STEM-related fields. I'd love to expand that view and tell the stories of what it's really like – the human side of STEM.

Below you will find a few questions to answer – these are questions that will give students (and the public) a bit of insight into the working life of STEM professionals. These questions are slightly different to how they appear on the website as I want to give you as much guidance as possible. Making your responses personable, by injecting a bit of humour for example, will ensure a fun read for students. If you have a funny, sad, amazing, or terrifying story that you can include in an answer, please do!

As students in particular, and the public in general, tend to be quite visual, I ask that you include at least one image with your response. I require one head shot (it doesn't have to be a professional photo), and ideally a few images of you at work to showcase the human side of STEM jobs, and that STEM people work in a myriad of places. If you have any additional images you would like to include please send them as well. This could be images of your work in the lab or field; images of things you are working on or have created; machinery/technology you work with; promotional imagery from your workplace; memes that relate to your work; or cool stuff that you've done as part of your work like conferences or travel. The more images the better, it really draws students in! Please ensure there is nothing inappropriate, sensitive, or confidential in the images – ask your employer for permission if needed.

By sending this form (and images) to Actual STEM People, you are agreeing that you are not sharing any private, sensitive, or confidential information or imagery. Note that this website is viewable by any member of the public. Actual STEM People are not responsible for mediating or moderating any information shared, beyond ensuring it is appropriate for school-aged youth to read. Please check with your employer if you are unsure of the information you are sharing, as many workplaces have policies regarding speaking with 'media outlets'.

Please do also encourage your workmates and other STEM friends to consider taking part. I would love to gain as wide a snap-shot of STEM fields as possible. Even if they are working in the exact same role as you, their experiences and answers will be different!

If you would like to view examples of other people's responses, head on over to www.actualstempeople.com and have a look around. Please note the site is still currently under construction, so don't be surprised if links don't yet work or pages are empty.

Again, thank you for taking the time to fill in this form. Your responses will be shared worldwide and used by potentially thousands of students to gain an insight into the work of Actual STEM People!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in contact via the website or by emailing emily@actualteaching.com.

Warm Regards,

Emily Aslin

Founder of Actual STEM People

Actual STEM People

Name?

Current Job Title?

What broad area of STEM do you consider your work a part of? Please choose as many as appropriate.

Science

Technology

Engineering

Mathematics

What company/department do you work for? Feel free to include a link to your company website – I will hyperlink it so students can see for themselves.

How did you get into this job? Did you study at university or TAFE? Please also include information about previous positions, especially if they enhance the story of how you got to where you are now.

How would you explain what you do to high school students? Don't be afraid to use technical or industry-specific language, but try to explain any high-level concepts in enough detail that a 12 year old could get the gist of it.

What type of building (or otherwise) do you work in? Do you spend time out in the field or working with clients, and if so, what does that look like for you?

What STEM disciplines are involved with your work? Be broad as well as specific – for example say within science there is physics, nuclear medicine, biology, genetics; within technology there is IT; and within mathematics there is algebra and trigonometry.

What other types of STEM professionals do you work with?

What does a typical day for you look like? If you don't have a 'typical day', please say this! Let students know that every day is different and changing if that's what your job is actually like.

What do you like best about your work? Try to sell it to them!

What do you like least about your work? You can be honest about long hours, smelly conditions, people not understanding your work etc.

What advice would you have for a high school student considering a career in the STEM field?

Do you have any fun, crazy, sad, inspiring, or terrifying stories to tell? Maybe you accidentally stabbed yourself in the head with a syringe and made your head radioactive, or got lost in the field trying to collect data, or got to travel and explore a new country. If you feel you don't have a story to tell you may leave this box blank, but if you do please write it – students love this part the best!

By ticking this box you agree that you are not sharing any private, sensitive, or confidential information that may have an impact on your workplace or employer. You are also agreeing to the information and images provided by you being published on a public website and used by teachers and schools worldwide.