



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Discover what's possible

Apprenticeships

Ask some of the biggest questions in the universe, explore the unknown and help change the world around us.

Explore careers at STFC
stfccareers.co.uk



Introduction

We know that you want to use your talent, skill, and dedication to make a difference and at STFC you will get the opportunity to do just that.

Your work will support world-leading science and innovation and enable ground-breaking research that will inspire, shape, and define our future.

All our early career roles have an impact on life across the globe.

Recruiting into a range of engineering, computing, and organisational support roles, STFC provides a unique environment in which to challenge yourself and develop real expertise.



About STFC

The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), part of UK Research and Innovation, is a place where scientists, technologists, engineers and business support teams explore the unknown and turn what they find into work that changes the world around us.

We are trusted to support, enable, and undertake cutting-edge projects in an amazing diversity of fields that you could be a part of. With access to our world-class facilities, people like you are helping us to drive ground-breaking advances in science, engineering, computing, and technology.

Our work is focused on inspiring impact – to make a real-world difference to people's lives and the environment around us. Whether it's sending probes into space or finding new ways to treat cancer, everyone here plays a vital role in making a positive difference to society.

Make an impact

Change the world around you by working on the big stuff – the projects that touch many lives. This is prestigious work that builds on our reputation for passion, at the cutting edge of science and engineering.

Great and varied work

Fire your imagination in a role that is interesting and exciting. The challenge is always evolving, so you'll always be learning. You'll contribute to human discovery on an unprecedented scale.

Being part of one of Europe's largest research organisations means you'll have access to world-class facilities, collaborate with the brightest, most curious minds and have the freedom to explore, ask questions and make an impact from day one.

Why join STFC?

Thanks to an unrivalled combination of expertise, facilities and resources, we're in a unique position to drive knowledge and innovation in the UK and throughout the world. The work we do helps to shape societies, strengthen economies, build industries, create jobs and transform lives. So just imagine what we can do for your career.

Join us and discover what's possible

Inspiring locations

We're based across the UK and collaborate with partners around the globe. We collaborate with our international partners such as CERN in Switzerland.

Daresbury Laboratory, Cheshire



Our facility in Cheshire has been at the forefront of pioneering international scientific research for over fifty years. 300 employees continue to push the boundaries of modern science in fields such as accelerator science, biomedicine, physics, chemistry, materials, engineering and high performance computing.

Polaris House, Wiltshire

Polaris House is a large modern building set in its own grounds in Swindon. Here staff work in areas such as science strategy and programme management as well as a range of professional, technical and support roles.

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxfordshire

Our expanding laboratory in South Oxfordshire is currently home to 1300 employees, visiting scientists and PhD students. It hosts some of the UK's major scientific facilities; providing a thriving and collaborative environment for research in particle physics, space science, materials, computational science, mechanical and electrical engineering, lasers and data intensive science.

UK Astronomy Technology Centre, Edinburgh

The UK Astronomy Technology Centre (UK ATC) is a national centre of excellence for the development of scientific instrumentation and facilities for ground and space-based astronomy. Our team of around 80 employees, based at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh, have a world-class reputation for astronomy, building and designing telescopes and control systems.

Boulby Underground Laboratory, Yorkshire

Boulby is a special place for science; 'a quiet place in the Universe' where studies can be carried out almost entirely free of interference from natural background radiation. It's so far down you need to take a lift to get there.

Chilbolton Observatory, Hampshire



Chilbolton Observatory is home to a wide range of science facilities covering research in atmospheric science, radio-communications, astronomy, space science and technology. The Space Monitoring Facility harnesses the power of the 25m antenna to track and characterise Earth orbiting satellites.



Life at STFC

Everyone at STFC has the freedom to explore, learn and connect, as part of a community that loves to share knowledge and support one another. We champion the mental and physical wellbeing of our people through all we do, providing training, resources and improved ways of working. We offer flexible and remote working, 30 days holiday (plus bank holidays), enhanced maternity, shared parental leave, adopted leave and use of nurseries where available. We also provide a confidential counselling service, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We have a range of employee diversity, inclusion and network groups, including but not limited to a Women in STEM network, a Carers Network, Parents Support Group, LGBTQ+ network and Mental Health First Aiders. These networks provide our people with peer support, networking opportunities and the chance to lead positive change.

"Our WiSTEM network has an active committee that works to organise a popular programme of well attended monthly events across the National Labs – providing networking opportunities and creating a forum to discuss and raise common issues faced by women."

Women in STEM

"As a parent, I find the flexible working arrangements at STFC make a huge difference to my ability to balance the demands of work and family life, and ultimately to my own wellbeing. Hybrid working and flexible hours means I can focus on getting my work done in a way that fits with my caring responsibilities."

Katharine Robertson, Head of Campus Development at Daresbury Laboratory

Projects that change the world

We seek to understand the Universe from the largest astronomical scales to the tiniest constituents of matter, while creating an impact on a very tangible, human scale. Our work saves lives, expands knowledge and moves society forward. Our success stories include:

- Stepping up during Covid and providing 13,437 ventilators to the NHS as part of Ventilator Challenge UK.
- Designing probes that observe previously unknown phenomena in space.
- Developing truly green fuel for the aviation industry, promoting sustainable travel.
- Harnessing particle physics to develop MRI scanners and transform healthcare for millions worldwide.

"It's a fabulous environment to thrive and develop and make a great contribution to our society."

Steve, Electrical Engineering Group Leader

A man and a woman are looking at a computer screen in a server room. The man is wearing glasses and a blue shirt, and the woman is wearing a brown jacket. They are both looking intently at the screen. The background shows server racks with blue and green lighting.

Apprenticeship Scheme

Whether you've just left school/college, changing career, or seeking a challenging alternative to full-time university, STFC offers a range of opportunities to launch your career through one of our apprenticeship programmes.

With highly-tailored training and support, you'll relish the opportunity to develop world-class skills through structured training and develop expertise.

If working with cutting-edge technologies on world-leading research, engineering and computing projects isn't enough, you will be able to develop both professionally and as a critical member of the team in an environment you won't find anywhere else.

Wherever your ambitions lie, our dedicated Apprenticeship Team will support you every step of the way, helping you make the most of your opportunities and to achieve the goals you already have - and those you have yet to discover.

We know that professional recognition is important to you too, so we provide mentoring and expertise to help you achieve valued qualifications.

You'll benefit from collaborating with world leading engineers, technicians and scientists – in addition to being part of a growing and vibrant Apprenticeship community – building networks and connections across STFC, UKRI, and beyond.

"STFC is an organisation dedicated to science and its people are passionate about answering key questions about our existence. I am very interested in programming and I felt compelled to work in this organisation with researchers, universities and businesses because you are exposed to so many ideas and you can learn about so many different things in software development."

Alberto, Apprentice Software Developer



Apprenticeship Scheme Benefits

What can you expect during your STFC Apprenticeship scheme?

- A benefits package designed to provide an excellent work/life balance including 30 days' annual leave, 10.5 public and privilege holidays, flexible working hours and an exceptional pension scheme.
- You'll get the chance to work on cutting-edge projects with international collaborators.
- Cycle-2-work scheme.
- Regular sporting events and other clubs and societies.
- Discount vouchers for high street stores and attractions.

Explore more at:

stfccareers.co.uk/rewards-and-benefits

Eligibility

To be considered for our graduate scheme you must have:

- Be aged 16 or over by the start of your apprenticeship.
- Not be in full-time education.
- Have the right to live and work in the UK.

Engineering apprenticeships at STFC

Engineering apprenticeships at STFC

Our Engineering apprenticeships are approved by the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) and provide an excellent opportunity to begin your engineering career.

Engineering apprenticeships normally last four years, the first of which is spent attending off-site training developing a wide range of practical engineering skills across multiple disciplines.

Based within one of our National Laboratory sites, you will gain specialised skills, learning the full spectrum of working in sophisticated cutting-edge facilities with direct involvement in exciting scientific projects.

You will be working alongside and guided by experienced technicians and engineers, whilst continuing your academic studies on a day/block release basis.

As an Engineering apprentice, you will undertake learning and development to become an accomplished Technician in one of the following areas:

Electronic Engineering

Apprentices will have the opportunity to learn about innovative state of the art high-speed electronics, from single integrated circuits to huge data acquisition systems. When fully assembled these systems are used in scientific research all over the world.

Electrical Engineering

Apprentices are given the opportunity to work within a range of electrical jobs. This can involve work as varied as installing large, high voltage conductor cables to work as small as soldering delicate components under a microscope.

Mechanical Engineering

Apprentices use novel and technology-enabled processes to contribute to the manufacture of mechanical parts and assemblies. This supports a broad range of engineering requirements on both large and small precise sizes using Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) and conventional machining techniques.

Engineering Design

Apprentices will produce engineering designs and drawings for components and systems used in our scientific facilities. Typically, they will support the development of piping and instrumentation flow controls utilising both 2D and 3D layouts.



Computing apprenticeships

Computing is a critical function in the support of STFC output and we need keen individuals to support us in the development of new products and services that advance the organisation's capability. Our Computing apprenticeships are varied, offering different pathways; you will be based in a group with computing professionals in one of the STFC departments.

STFC provides apprenticeship opportunities in Data Science, Software Engineering, Network Engineering, DevOps, ICT Technician and IT Support roles. Data Analysis and Cyber Security. Your programme will provide you with qualifications across Level 3, Level 4 or Level 6 depending on the programme.

During your computing apprenticeship you will be based in either a 'static' role in one of our department, or you may rotate between several departments. Your role will complement formal training and enable you to develop into a competent computing professional.

The Apprenticeship Scheme provides you with the opportunity to gain recognised qualifications whilst developing the required skills, behaviours and knowledge through professional development and working directly with a wide range of technologies.

"In the next 6 months I'm aiming to complete work on the new CEDA accounts portal, a service that will allow users to apply for permission to view different environmental data sets. I will then be working in the Tech department on improving the software used to control a type of detector used on the ISIS Muon and Neutron Source."

Rhys, Apprentice Software Developer





Other apprenticeship opportunities at STFC

We have roles based at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in South Oxfordshire, Daresbury Laboratory in Cheshire, Boulby Underground Laboratory in Yorkshire and UKATC in Edinburgh.

Our apprenticeship roles continue to grow and expand, and include opportunities in roles such as Business Administration, Project Management, Laboratory Technician, Heating and Facilities Support.

New disciplines are recruited into our departments as needs arise; all apprentice opportunities can be found here:

www.careersportal.co.uk/UKRIcareers/page/early-careers-at-stfc-11



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Graduate and Industrial Placement roles will be advertised from September, and Summer Placements will be advertised from January.

Find out more: stfccareers.co.uk/early-careers

Apply for jobs: careersportal.co.uk/UKRI-careers/jobs/search/700860



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