



# EMPOWER ME SERIES

# IMPACT REPORT

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**UpskillMe**

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## OUR MISSION

At Upskill Me, we create safe spaces for under-represented talent with leading employers. We empower young people to realise their potential, build their skills and define their futures.

# AY25/26 EMPOWER ME

Impact Report - Aims, Goals & Partners



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## WHAT IS THE EMPOWER ME STEM SERIES?

The annual Empower Me STEM Series consists of several in-person career accelerator events which support and prepare girls and all those who identify with womanhood in Year 12 and 13 for an exciting career in STEM. Participants can expect to connect with global employers, receive advice and guidance from leading women in STEM, boost their employability skills and collaborate with like-minded peers on real-world projects.



## CORE GOALS



**EMPOWER** students to find and appreciate the value of their own voice



**CONNECT** students to a supportive peer and professional network



**SUPPORT** students to build the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to succeed in the workplace and beyond

## 2025/26 EMPOWER ME PARTNERS



# AY25/26 EMPOWER ME

Impact Report - Students & Schools



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# 102

**YOUNG WOMEN INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN STEM**  
**ACROSS 53 SCHOOLS**

#### SCHOOL LOCATIONS:

- LONDON
- BERKSHIRE
- BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
- ESSEX
- HAMPSHIRE



## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

86%

Were from minoritised ethnic communities/backgrounds.

54%

Had parents who did not go to university and gain a degree.

46%

Were eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium.

12%

Faced additional barriers, e.g. refugee/young carer status.

## STUDENT RATINGS

75%

22%  
Said Maybe

Would consider working for the employers in attendance

98%



Said they would attend another event with the Upskill Me!

95%

43%  
reported a significant increase

Felt more motivated/confident in pursuing a career or apprenticeship in the sector

**100%** OF STUDENTS HAD A POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF THE ORGANISATIONS IN ATTENDANCE!

# AY25/26 EMPOWER ME

Impact Report - Volunteers



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# 20 CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS ACROSS 7 PARTNERS

### SECTORS:

- TECHNOLOGY
- BIO-PHARMA
- HEALTHCARE
- FINANCE
- LAW



## VOLUNTEER RATINGS

100%

Felt they added value to the students' experience.

100%

Felt more positive about their organisation.

100%

Said they found the volunteer support materials useful.

100%

Said they would recommend volunteering with Upskill Me.

## VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK



4.7



Average rating for the session volunteers took part in (out of 5)

A really brilliant event, thank you! The fact that the students had had to apply to attend and felt the accomplishment of being selected, meant that I felt they were more engaged with the content than many other groups I've experienced. It was so enjoyable to talk with the students, and I appreciated feeling like they were genuinely interested and wanted to learn more.

- Volunteer, Women in Science Event

# AY25/26 EMPOWER ME

Impact Report - Attendee Quotes



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The speed networking was the most helpful thing I have ever done for university and the future. It really helped me understand what degrees other people did to get where they are today, how you need a positive mental attitude and belief in yourself to succeed and that I don't have to plan everything. It was amazing, I am so grateful for the opportunity.

- Women in Science attendee

I think the understanding and reassurance that it's okay to not be fully decided on what we want to pursue specifically and the encouragement to branch out and be open to new things was really helpful for me. I really enjoyed getting to meet new people and networking.

- London Apprenticeships attendee

I really liked the top tips that the panel gave to motivate us into a science career. I also think speaking to Denise, was helpful for everyone when talking about CVs and Cover Letters and what employers are generally looking for.

- Women in Science attendee

I loved how active teams were in giving feedback and improvement. I also loved when speakers talked about inclusion for people who are more quiet.

- London Apprenticeships attendee

The Q&A with experienced adults face to face, which helped to broaden my horizons, and sparked interest in jobs I didn't know existed until that day.

- Women in Science attendee

Hearing the advice and backstories of the panelists was especially helpful and enjoyable for me and I also loved the assessment centre simulation and I feel a lot more confident and prepared for real ones in the future. Nothing more to add, just a big thank you to everyone for the opportunity!

- London Apprenticeships attendee