



**STEM Ambassador profile**

**DAVE ALLEN**  
**WIND ENERGY RESEARCHER**

**? What do you do?**

“ I am currently a PhD researcher in the Department of Engineering, University of Leeds. My research focuses on small scale wind power in the UK. I have looking at ways of mapping the wind speed across the whole UK and why small scale turbines are installed in certain areas. All of my research is done by performing computer simulations and then using real-life wind data to test how accurate my simulations are. Putting together computer simulations is similar to completing a jigsaw, where lots of small pieces doing a specific job can combine to give overall simulation that is capable of doing many different things.



**? How did you get where you are?**

“ In a very roundabout way. When I was at school, I wanted to be an architect and started a course at university after leaving school. I found it wasn't what I wanted to do, and I was pretty unhappy doing it. I left after a year and went and worked for an environmental consultancy firm that worked in renewable energy. I really enjoyed working in the area and working professionally gave me the motivation to push myself that I didn't have after leaving school. So I went back to university in Sheffield to do mechanical engineering focused on renewable energy and it was great. I really enjoyed the course and being at university this time round.

It was personal tutor at Sheffield Hallam who suggested that I should consider doing a PhD. It was something I had thought about before, but him suggesting it was the confidence boost to go for it. It was the idea of challenging myself further that attracted me and to make a contribution to an area I was really interested in.

**? What advice do you have?**

“ “Don't be scared to fail”. If you fail, you fail, but you will know for sure that's not what you want to do. I got into Engineering after trying other things and knowing they were not what I wanted to do. But it takes a leap of faith, which can be hard but when it works out, it's really great.

**? What kinds of activity can you support?**

“ I have been involved in engagement activities, which I really enjoyed. I would also be interested in career talks and mentoring for those considering STEM subjects.



**How your school can access STEM Ambassadors**

We work with schools so that you can access our database of **FREE** STEM Ambassador volunteers, enabling you to incorporate exemplary links to the world of work within your teaching. Each STEM Ambassador has a STEM background – they are usually experts or professionals in their field.

All of our STEM Ambassadors have also undergone an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check to enable them to work with young people in school; and they have also attended an induction session with West Yorkshire STEM staff on how to approach classroom and school-based teaching sessions. To request a STEM Ambassador, email us: [ambassadors@wystem.co.uk](mailto:ambassadors@wystem.co.uk).

