



ZESHAAN EJAZ BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST

? What do you do?



I am Biomedical Scientist in the department of Histopathology at St James's University Hospital, part of the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. At the moment I have completed my MSc degree through work and now working towards completing my specialist portfolio enabling me to become a higher specialist and eventually leading onto become a chartered scientist.

? Describe a typical working day



A typical day can be very busy from the receipt of samples we get from wards, theatres and GP clinics. Our role is to assist the pathologist in specimen dissection and ensuring the specimens that we receive is suitably and appropriately prepared for the pathologist to examine. The slides we generate have very thin stained tissue sections fixed on them so the pathologist can look down the microscope in order to give a diagnosis for patients.

? How did you get to where you are now?

I studied Biology, Chemistry and Physics for my A-Levels, but unfortunately didn't make the grades I needed for my chosen subject at University. I really wanted to study medicine. I spoke to my form tutor and career advisor at school about my situation. Following their good advice and support, I went back to study at college during the day and did biology A-Level at night college. I re-sat my A-Levels and passed. I reapplied to Bradford University and was admitted onto the foundation degree course for Biomedical sciences-by this time as I was even more interested in Biology and how the body functioned at a cellular level.

? Why did you join the STEM Ambassadors Programme?

I joined STEM as an opportunity to give academic support, career advice and inspiration back to school kids who have many options available to them that I was not privileged to have when I was at school. I want to be able to let students know that if you listen to the teachers and career advisors who have our best academic interests at heart, they can point you in the right direction and offer many learning resources either through STEM or other means. Joining STEM has definitely been the most rewarding activity I have done alongside my career.

? What sort of activities are you interested in supporting?



I love participating in the STEM clubs, and watching the students come up with their own ideas and opinions in the building process. STEM can offer schools and teachers an immense support network setting up their own STEM clubs and challenges. This is supported with the active input from STEM ambassadors, who can bring their own professional knowledge and expertise in to the classroom, enhancing the learning objectives of the curriculum more pro-actively, rather than the conventional text book style.

? Your advice for students?



My advice to all school students is to never give up learning even if you don't quite get what you wanted in your results. If you keep persistent with your studies, keep motivated and have the drive to learn you will find that there are many other routes to get your desired career ambitions. Keep at it, even if it feels like a never ending road-you will get there with many rewards at the end!

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.



**STEM
AMBASSADORS
ILLUMINATING
FUTURES**

All of our STEM Ambassadors have also undergone an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) 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.

