Targeting our provision where it's needed most

This framework details how our charity seeks to identify, engage and support underserved young people who will benefit most from our provision. **With your support, we'll invest our resources more effectively and maximise our impact – making STEM less intimidating, more diverse and inclusive.**

Broadening opportunities with provision bursaries

For those that meet our targeting criteria, we provide provision bursaries covering the cost of robotics kits, educational resources, mentor facilitation and events. The cost of provision is approx. £5000 per team and is funded by generous industry partners.

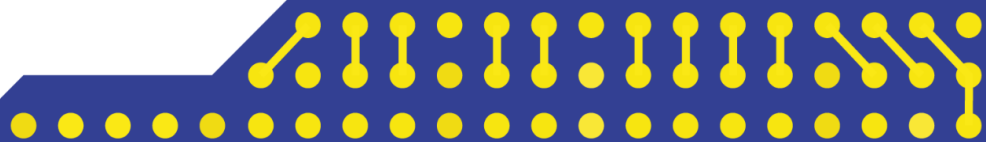## Together, we're committed to:

1. Prioritising **participation by school and youth organisations** in areas with a high concentration of underserved populations

2. Ensuring the **young people taking part are likely to benefit most** from our programme

We define underserved young people as:

"12 to 18 year olds who face systemic challenges resulting in less access, fewer opportunities and inadequate support in STEM education that significantly impacts their ability to reach their full potential."

These systemic challenges include, but are not limited to:

- Socioeconomic deprivation
- Gender and sex
- Disability and neurodiversity
- Ethnicity and race

How to meet our targeting criteria

We ask you to meet baseline and primary requirements to be considered for a provision bursary. These are deliberately flexible as you know your student's needs best and we know needs vary greatly.

Baseline requirements

You must intend to garner participation from **one of these criteria**:

- **Young people in low-income households or neighbourhoods** (determined by % free school meals, Education Investment Area proximity, Indices of Multiple Deprivation)
- **Young people who do not have a developed interest in STEM subjects** OR are underrepresented in STEM
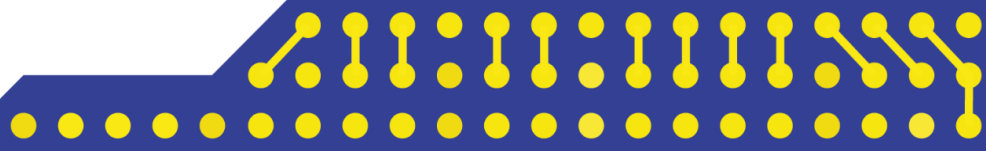
Primary requirements

You will strive to ensure at least 50% of your team comprises of **young people who:**

- Identify as girls or non-binary
- Are from underrepresented groups (eg BAME)
- Are neurodiverse or have special educational needs (SEND)
- Would be first in family to university
- Are at risk of becoming NEET, or who demonstrate poor attendance, low educational engagement and attainment

How we assess bursary applications

Schools and youth organisations have the option to complete a bursary application at the point of registration.

You will be asked to indicate in 500 words or less why your organisation should be supported and the impact this opportunity may have. You should use this to:

- Indicate which criteria from this targeting framework you meet/intend to meet
- Provide supporting context specific to your circumstances and environment
- Be clear on who you feel will benefit most from the programme
- Emphasise the impact the programme is likely to have

You will be asked on the form to commit to our Equity, Diversity & Inclusion pledge.

When reviewing applications, we assess:

- Whether you are likely to meet our baseline and primary criteria
- Your motivations, approach, and ambitions
- IMD score within your catchment area
- % of free school meals, if applicable or the nearest alternative
- Your location – e.g proximity to a FIRST UK regional hub or EIA

Applications are reviewed by our bursary committee and the outcome notified typically within 14 days. We may request further information to inform any decision.

At our discretion, we may offer bursaries outside of our criteria, providing you can define a clear case for support. Read our full bursary conditions.