

STEM - creating opportunities through true partnership with the Salford Foundation

As part of our commitment to being a responsible business and building strong local relationships, we are proud of the impact we have had working with the Salford Foundation over the last three years.

This thriving regional relationship has enabled us to support local initiatives for young people in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Starting during CGI's official opening of our Salford Office, the Foundation has been influential in the development of our STEM programme, enabling us to hold our largest STEM camp to date, with more than 120 students and 15 volunteers in Salford.

Shared values

People are at the heart of the Salford Foundation's work, shaping and co-creating through networks of businesses and volunteers. These values align with our ambition to help build the economic growth and social development of Salford and Greater Manchester through strong partnerships. Together, we recognised that the road to attracting new and diverse talent was to increase gender and racial equity in tech careers begins with inspiring young people, fuelling a passion for technology and cultivating an interest in shaping the digital future.

Salford Foundation's, 'Raising Aspirations' projects, supports schools and colleges across Greater Manchester, enabling young people from primary school to college (age 9-19) to consider their future aims and goals and learn new skills. We actively engaged with these projects by providing members from across our business to facilitate a variety of activities.



Key benefits

- Providing industry insight into a real-life working environment
- Delivering opportunities to find out about STEM and future careers
- Helping inspire those from disadvantaged backgrounds to consider STEM careers
- Providing support to underrepresented groups such as women in tech and BAME
- Facilitated member development through gaining experience of working in their community and giving back, which can improve well-being and mental health
- Providing our members with the opportunity to learn new skills or experience their skills in a different environment
- Helping CGI to build effective community relationships with schools and charities where we live and work.

Raising aspirations volunteering opportunities

- **Mock interviews** – our volunteers help inspire young people’s vision for their future careers through practising interviews, helping to prepare students for their next steps, increasing their chances of securing work after education and providing them with the confidence to enter the world of work
- **Help with transition days** – our volunteers support days aimed at helping primary children progress successfully to secondary school. The focus of the activities is fun but supports engaging children in STEM to expand their future choices of subjects later in their school careers
- **Careers fairs** – our volunteers have also taken an active role in introducing CGI at career fairs providing the opportunity to talk about CGI, what we do, and the different exciting roles available to students, either through apprenticeships, sponsored degrees, or graduate routes
- **Virtual world of work** – through these sessions, our members have been actively engaged in raising awareness of our professionals’ different career experiences, providing insight into the range of careers, skills, and technologies found in CGI. During these sessions, our members talk about a typical working day in their lives within CGI and the different routes each person travelled to be a skilled and experienced professional of CGI.

The Salford Foundation is currently playing an active part in our Student Kickstart Initiative (SKI) Programme by assisting junior CGI members to host community events and build new connections in Manchester. We hope to continue this mutually beneficial relationship with the Salford Foundation for many years and look forward to encouraging many more students from Greater Manchester to thrive in the exciting world of STEM.



Outcomes

As a result of our partnership with Salford Foundation we are proud to have achieved the following outcomes:

- More children from disadvantaged backgrounds helped to choose STEM careers
- Better representation of disadvantaged groups in STEM subjects
- More engaged and enthusiastic members gained through giving something back to their communities
- Thriving community relationships built on trust
- Helping build the passion and excitement for STEM careers for the workplace of tomorrow
- Stronger links developed through true partnership working, helping build representation in Salford and Greater Manchester

“Salford Foundation’s relationship with CGI has been making an impact for the last three years across Greater Manchester by raising the aspirations of young people. CGI has been able to support the development of work skills by providing interviews with young people and career talks and activities about the different roles available in STEM careers. Since CGI has partnered with Salford Foundation, they have supported over 750 young people through their staff volunteering time and effort to impact students across Greater Manchester schools and colleges. CGI is a valued partner and we look forward to continuing to help them make an impact in communities across Greater Manchester.”

Jason King

Salford Foundation

About CGI

Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest IT and business consulting services firms in the world. At CGI, we are insights-led and outcome-based to help clients accelerate returns on their investments.

For more information

Visit cgi.com/uk

Email us at enquiry.uk@cgi.com