



STEM MANIFESTO

WEST COLLEGE
SCOTLAND 

 **STEM**[®]
ASSURED

INTRODUCTION

In an era of constant and rapid technological change, West College Scotland believes it has never been more important for every student to leave college equipped with core STEM skills.

Nor has it been more important for employers to have a source of well-trained, properly-qualified people with a firm grasp of STEM subjects.

And it has never been more important than it is today for colleges, schools and employers to work together to shape teaching and learning in ways that ensure STEM is at the heart of ALL training and education.

West College Scotland is a large organisation operating in the West Region of Scotland. Our scale means we have influence over the educational and training landscape in a region which, although it has suffered many years of economic decline, now offers huge opportunities for modern businesses in the digital age.

This manifesto has been developed by College staff working with key stakeholders from schools, universities, local authorities and industry. They share our ambitions to use STEM to make a real difference to our students, our employer partners and our Region.

As Scotland's largest college, West College Scotland commits to using STEM-based learning to develop a modern workforce which can assist local economic growth and contribute to social cohesion.



West College Scotland is a forward-thinking institution that has embraced the ethos of STEM innovation in all of its activities

The STEM Foundation

OUR COMMITMENT TO STEM

Our aim: to ensure all College programmes fully integrate STEM activity and that it has a real impact on student learning and employability.

Our vision: to ensure STEM permeates across all curriculum areas, allowing for fresh, inter-disciplinary learning experiences for our students which will further enhance their learning and employability

West College Scotland will:

- ◆ **Ensure students are work-ready for current and future STEM industries**
- ◆ **Enhance the STEM skills of all students, whatever their preferred employment destination**
- ◆ **Develop a new, innovative curriculum and commercial opportunities to support local industry and help upskill the existing workforce**
- ◆ **Embed partnership working with schools to raise the profile of STEM, as well as the aspirations of young people**
- ◆ **Develop our staff, their teaching approaches and our resources to reflect the centrality of STEM to our curriculum**
- ◆ **Be a vehicle for further strategic engagement with local industry**

Our current STEM provision has been quality-assured by The STEM Foundation. The accreditation report says the College has demonstrated a clear capacity to stimulate and deliver innovative STEM provision to enable student development, increase employability and support business growth.

OUR STEM PLEDGES

PLEDGE TO OUR STUDENTS:

Any course you study at West College Scotland will include STEM learning. In addition, we will:

- Tell you how STEM learning is relevant to your course and your future career
- Provide you with valuable and enjoyable learning experiences
- Enhance your knowledge and skills of digital devices
- Improve your skills in numeracy and maths
- Improve your opportunities for progression and employment

PLEDGE TO OUR EMPLOYER PARTNERS:

You will be involved in developing and delivering West College Scotland's STEM provision. In addition, we will:

- Ensure our students have the STEM knowledge and training, as well as the personal skills, to become an asset to your business
- Provide STEM training to help your workforce update their skills set and learn new skills to help you meet future business opportunities

PLEDGE TO OUR REGION:

Everything West College Scotland does will be informed by the strategic, economic and employment needs of the West Region. In addition we will:

- Ensure resources across the Region are used efficiently and effectively to benefit students
- Raise awareness of STEM-linked opportunities for all our young people
- Offer STEM-linked learning to our local communities



FIVE KEY CLUSTERS

Working with the STEM Foundation, we have identified five key curriculum “clusters”. These provide us with a clear framework to signpost, strengthen and progress West College Scotland’s existing STEM provision. They will also help us to develop the capability to deliver new training in emerging technologies to meet the needs of local industry. Cluster areas will be supported by a commitment to building skills in Project Management as well as in Enterprise and Innovation.

