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UK Electronics
Skills Foundation



Semiconductor Skills in Schools

Impact 2025-2026





Schools form an important part of the future skills pipeline. As part of the broader, HMG funded, Semiconductor: Skills, Talent & Education Programme (STEP) 2025/26 the UKESF delivered a schools' programme which equipped young people with practical Electronics knowledge through hands-on learning resources and dedicated teacher support. Designed for students aged 15-18, the programme helped bring core Electronics concepts to life within the curriculum, supporting Physics and Computer Science educators delivering GCSE/SQC, A Level and Scottish Higher qualifications.

This schools' initiative focused on providing regional support in North East England, South West England, central belt of Scotland, South Wales and Northern Ireland. The UKESF held five regional one-day 'Get into Semiconductors' events, as well as three Careers Forum events which connected education and industry. Curriculum resources were provided to more than 120 schools, and teachers were supported through online engagement sessions and tailored regional information packs.



Students who attended our Careers Forums said their biggest takeaways from the events were:

"How prevalent semiconductors are and the plethora of tech research in Scotland"
"The perspectives of different industries"
"Seeing what an actual lab looks like"

Students shared their biggest takeaway from the 'Get into Semiconductors' events:

"A great insight into the semiconductor industry"
"There are many different fields of engineering"
"How often semiconductors are used in everyday life"



The Programme

Get into Semiconductors

The UKESF delivered five regional events in:

- Northern Ireland, Queen's University Belfast
- The North East, Newcastle University
- Scotland, University of Glasgow
- South Wales, Swansea University
- The South West, South Devon College

Giving students valuable exposure to Electronics education and careers in the UK semiconductor sector.

Participants experienced a sample lecture, gained understanding of what it is like to study Electronics, toured testing facilities, developed practical skills using a microcontroller, and explored a range of career pathways within the semiconductor industry.



Careers Forums

With support from the CSA Catapult, three Careers Forums were coordinated and delivered in Wales (CSA Catapult, Newport), North East England (NETPark, Durham), and the Central Belt of Scotland (NMIS, Paisley).

Each event brought together local industry partners to provide students with first-hand insight into the semiconductor sector through talks, interactive activities and immersive experiences. These included problem-solving using Logic & Arithmetic Boards, VR headset-based learning and tours of on-site manufacturing facilities.



Resources

We were pleased to be able to offer more than 120 schools our free resources, which included our reusable Music Mixer Circuit Boards, Logic & Arithmetic Kits and Arduino Grove kits, designed to support Physics and Computer Science teaching at GCSE/SQC and A level/Scottish Highers.

Regional Information packs

The classroom resources provided students with opportunities to explore the wide-ranging applications of semiconductors and their role in modern technology. To build on this learning, UKESF partnered with Oriel Science to develop region-specific teaching resources tailored to each cluster. These information packs feature insights into the local semiconductor industry, pathways for learning more about Electronics and semiconductors, and inspiring stories from engineers working in the sector, helping students better understand the opportunities available within the industry.

Online teacher sessions

We provided support and training for teachers in how to make the most of the resources and building subject knowledge in Electronics and semiconductors.



Feedback

Get into Semiconductors

- 68% of students reported highly enjoying their event
- 88% of students said the event added value to their learning
- 80% of students rated the event as good or excellent
- 88% of students reported an increase in their knowledge of career opportunities

Careers Forums:

- 67% of students found the event very or extremely useful
- 55% of students found the event very or extremely informative
- 61% of students reported greater interest in pursuing a career in the semiconductor sector
- 93% of students increased their knowledge of the semiconductor sector through the event

