



Assuring providers of vocational STEM education and training





What is it?

STEM Assured is the standard for assuring the delivery of vocational STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and training.

The standard has been specifically developed to assure the quality of **an integrated, cross-curricular approach** to STEM vocational education. It is an outcomes-based standard driven by the need to assure a more coherent, multi- and inter-disciplinary approach to vocational STEM education and training.

The STEM Assured process involves a critical review of a provider's strategy and approach to ensure their vocational STEM offer meets the needs of employers and sectors. STEM Assured adds an industry-led assurance component to existing quality assurance standards and/or systems.

The standard highlights performance in six areas – strategy and planning, engagement, design and delivery, innovation, standards, and impact.



What does it involve?

The process involves an independent validation of your institution's own assessment of its capability to deliver integrated cross-curricular vocational STEM education and training which meets the needs of business and industry.

STEM Assured validation is a robust and efficient process, which takes into account existing evidence of high quality delivery, such as Ofsted ratings, other quality marks (e.g. Training Quality Standard, Investors in People, Matrix) and achieved kitemarks (e.g. LSIS Beacon Status, Centres of Vocational Excellence).

Completing the self-assessment and collating evidence to support your organisation's submission could not be easier with our dedicated website and online forms guiding you through the process. Advisers will support you through the process, review your submission and confirm your evidence with a site visit.

What are the benefits?

The rigorous validation means that for those providers that meet the standard, the benefits are:

- Employers are able to recognise STEM departments that are up to date with industrial practices, thereby ensuring a higher employability value is placed on learners from the institution.
- Employer engagement practice is improved, providing opportunities to develop revenue streams with industrially funded projects, as employers will have confidence in the department's ability to deliver.
- The STEM capability of a department is stretched, enabling more effective cross-curricular collaboration in teaching and learning, knowledge and technology transfer and business innovation activities.
- Departments are able to benchmark their approach, as the standard offers an effective and efficient means to ensure a high degree of consistency of quality in STEM education and training.
- Learners experience better progression to higher level studies and employment; since the STEM strategy has been articulated from the outset, the learner journey has greater clarity.
- Lecturers and trainers are supported to develop greater innovation, confidence and capability in delivering multi-disciplinary STEM subjects reflecting real and relevant applications.

Who can apply?

The STEM Assured standard is applicable to Further Education colleges and other vocational STEM training providers who have achieved quality marks such as high Ofsted ratings in STEM subject areas, and other schemes (e.g TQS, IIP, Matrix).

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact our team if you would like to know more about STEM Assured®, how you can get started and what support is available.

**Contact: info@nefassured.org
020 8786 3677
www.nefassured.org**

