

# Jacobs Named Inspirational STEM Employer

Creating exciting, innovative educational experiences and raising young people's aspiration and knowledge of future STEAM career opportunities



Latest news in! Jacobs has been named [STEM Learning UK's Inspirational STEM Employer](#), recognizing our outstanding commitment to STEM and how this is embedded within our core values and Culture of Caring<sup>SM</sup>. The STEM Inspiration Awards celebrate the individuals, organizations and clubs working to inspire young people in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).

Watch the [Awards Ceremony here](#).

U.K. Research and Innovation's Chief Executive Officer, Professor Dame Ottoline Leyser, said: "We are delighted to be supporting these Awards that celebrate the role organizations and individuals across the economy play in showcasing the variety of STEM careers and pathways to the next generation."

"We have seen the power that STEM has demonstrated in being able to address the huge problems that we have faced in our society and across the world in recent times. Bringing together the necessary skills and expertise has been crucial and that is why it is so important that the STEM community is as diverse, creative and dynamic as possible. Our personal thanks to the organizations and individuals who play an important role to support this."

"Jacobs is honoured to receive this recognition and proud of the U.K. team's efforts to create 15,000 hours of virtual online learning opportunities for young people last year," says Jacobs' People & Places Solutions Senior Vice President for Europe and Digital Strategies and [Honorary STEM Ambassador Donald Morrison](#). "STEAM is at the epicentre of developing the future skills that economies need to address complex issues such as climate

change threats, resilient cities and communities, and natural-resource stresses. By investing in future generations at an early age, we accelerate that transformation. We inspire them to do things better by sharing real-world contexts and raising young people’s aspiration and knowledge of future STEAM careers.”

Speaking at the virtual STEM Inspiration Awards, Jacobs' STEAM Lead for Europe Kara Connon explains: “Since COVID-19 began last year, a small core U.K. team worked with our wider STEAM Ambassador network to develop and deliver a set of virtual initiatives to support the parents and students of Jacobs and our partner schools. We gained feedback from teachers on what they needed from Jacobs and from there we created a set of virtual STEAM initiatives that over 500 school students have now taken part in.



“We set up a tutoring service to support all school subjects, not just STEAM. We presented weekly live streaming workshops and we are in the process of recording video experiments and creating a globally accessible virtual careers fair.

“What the pandemic has taught us is that we can create incredibly beneficial educational experiences to students around the world, who we would not normally be able to reach for geographical reasons.

"Also, a huge congratulations to Jacobs’ Jason Andrews and Bobby Dias, who designed the new work experience programme,” adds Kara.

Jacobs’ Head of Data Science, Jason Andrews and Structural Technician, Bobby Dias, were highly commended in the category, ‘Outstanding Contribution to Widening Participation, Diversity and Inclusion in STEM’ for designing Jacobs’ U.K. work experience program as part of the wider STEAM virtual initiatives.

Sponsored by [U.K. Research and Innovation](#), the awards recognize the initiatives which make a real impact, sparking an enthusiasm for STEAM subjects and paving the way for careers in these fields.

### **Aston University Engineering Academy (AUEA) partnership**

As part of our STEAM strategy in Birmingham we have identified partnerships across the city to promote and support engineering focused activities through our ambassador network. As a cornerstone employer with the Careers and Enterprise Company, we support the continued development of industry and academia links to inspire the students into the world of work.

AUEA is a leading University Technology College (UTC) meeting the needs of the skills gap and educating the inventors, engineers, scientists and technicians of tomorrow. Jacobs has a long-standing partnership AUEA and delivers an extended placement programme for local students to become the next generation of problem solvers. The programme provides both academic and technical training along with a focus on wider professional skills through the employer-linked learning and project curriculum. Jacobs has maintained the vision of equipping young talent with the skills needed to both enter and excel in the engineering profession, a concept that has been woven into every part of the placement project.

Dan Hickman, Jacobs Regional Growth Director added: “ We have been able to utilise the virtual work experience programme to great success over the last 12 months, maintaining encounters, impacting on the lives and career choices of the students during a very difficult time. We have been able to scale up our programme utilising the digital approach delivering a decade of traditional works experience within the same time frame. We are delighted to have recognition through the STEM ambassador network.”

“In a time when students should be fully embracing the sights, sounds and day-to-day business through work experience, the pandemic took that opportunity away. Jacobs stepped up to provide a quality virtual work experience programme in quick time that has not only benefited AUEA students but many others from different schools. What is amazing is their ability to adapt, support and upscale the provision for large numbers of 6th Form students,” added David Chapman, Vice Principal AUEA.