

# Youth Steering Group

2019

## Case Study



### WHO IS IN THE YSG?

Kalina is the Chair of the YSG.

She is a Design Editor for a geological magazine and has worked on numerous projects connected to STEM and the wider participation of young people. She volunteers for a range of large Scottish youth organisations.

Kalina joined the YSG so that she could “be at the forefront of making an impact” and she is particularly interested in helping “to get more young people excited in STEM.”

Fatima is the Vice Chair.

She is a Modern Apprentice in Software Engineering and has been heavily involved in various Youth Parliament groups. She has worked on a range of projects aiming to ensure that Scotland’s young people are given the opportunities they deserve.

Fatima joined the YSG so that she could “bring about major changes at all levels, from grass roots scale to policy making.”

In addition to Kalina and Fatima there are 10 YSG members: Benjamin, Calum, Ruby, Sofia, Kenneth, Emily, Jack, Thomas, Gordon and Hanna. All attend secondary schools across Scotland.

### WHAT IS THE YSG?

The Young STEM Leader (YSL) Youth Steering Group (YSG) has been established to support the delivery and ongoing development of the YSL Programme across Scotland. The group represents the voice of young people and provides essential feedback on the YSL Programme.

The types of activities with which the group is involved include:

- Reviewing and commenting on delivery materials
- Advising on training activities for young people
- Supporting marketing and promotional activities, including development of social media channels
- Representing the YSL Programme nationally across a range of platforms.



## SUMMARY OF SESSION 1

The YSG were given the opportunity to consider how the existing frameworks and criteria will be used to devise course content for the CfE Third Level and SCQF Level 5 versions of the programme.

This is a crucial part of The YSL Project Team's next steps for developing a course that is created for young people, by young people.

## CfE THIRD LEVEL

The YSG's suggestions and recommendations for CfE Third Level include:

- More emphasis on the term 'STEM' itself to continue to challenge the common stereotypes and misconceptions
- Looking at the opportunities within STEM that aren't purely focused on careers
- Inclusion of practical activities, guidance and examples to ensure that YSLs are able to progress
- Encouraging learners who have completed CfE Second Level to focus on areas of interest and to explore things which are unfamiliar to them. They suggested this could be done by adding two new areas (or Badges)
- Encouraging teamwork
- Celebrating success, particularly on completion of each level.

## SCQF LEVEL 5

The YSG's suggestions and recommendations for SCQF Level 5 include:

- Practical elements instead of the more theoretical aspects which are contained in the SCQF Level 6 version of the programme
- Ensuring that exam preparation is taken into account by having less tasks in the SCQF Level 5 course than in SCQF Level 6. This would make the course more manageable alongside exam preparation
- Reiteration of skills required and styles in leadership to enable learners to be able to take the initiative to inspire others



- Exploring all of the STEM pathways available to young people and dealing with "misinformation" on careers, Further Education and Higher Education
- The belief that YSLs will be capable enough to lead their own activities and should be given every opportunity to do so; they should be trusted to be independent and to share their knowledge with others
- Keeping the paper resources and YSL Log to ensure accessibility for all.

