

In2science Partner Schools 2023



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This project is jointly funded by:

The Victorian Government through the Strategic Partnerships Program, the In2science Partner Universities, Toyota Community Trust, and CSL Behring.



"I think it's a great opportunity for our students to speak with like-minded mentors. It has helped these groups to see the possibilities of further study and a career in STEM. It has allowed our students to focus on areas of interest in a way that we wouldn't be able to achieve in a normal classroom, with a knowledgeable mentor who has guided and supported their learning."
- Teacher, Ballarat High School





About Us

In2science is an innovative, award-winning program which increases student engagement in maths and science by placing volunteer university students as peer mentors in secondary school classes.

In2science was established in 2004 and is a La Trobe University-led collaboration with The University of Melbourne, RMIT University, Swinburne University of Technology, and Deakin University.

Our Vision

In2science's vision is to be Australia's premier STEM outreach program, harnessing the power of peer mentoring so that all learners, regardless of their background, can realise their STEM potential.

Our Mission

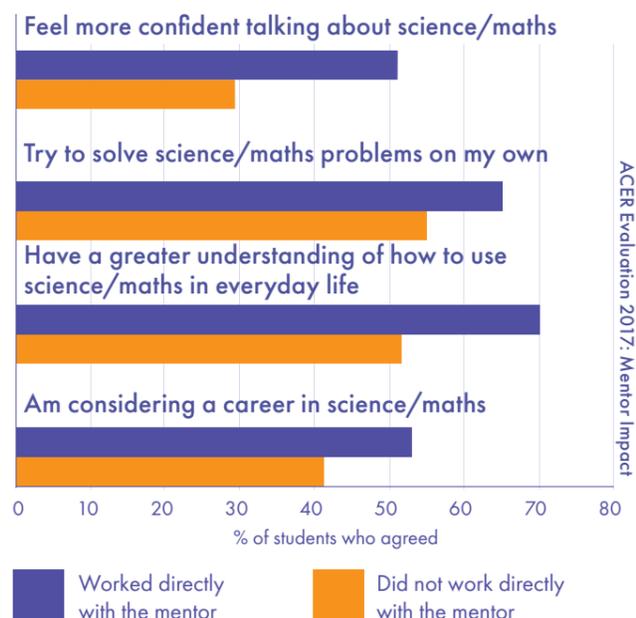
In2science helps secondary school students realise their STEM potential by:

- Increasing engagement in STEM for improved student outcomes, particularly for under-represented groups
- Increasing awareness of STEM skills in all careers for students, mentors, and teachers
- Creating partnerships between universities, schools, and industry

"As an Industry Mentor, it's incredibly rewarding to help guide my mentee towards their goals, as they simultaneously empower younger generations to engage in STEM. Through generational knowledge sharing, the In2science program is incredible at amplifying its impact and providing opportunities to students from all walks of life."

- **Jacqueline Saykao, Quality Specialist II, Thermo Fisher Scientific**

After having an In2science Mentor I now...



How does the program work in schools?

In2science mentors work with secondary school science or maths students for a 10-week period. Working with the classroom teacher, the mentors help students, share their own experiences and motivations for studying at university, and relate school work to real-world examples. In2science has two delivery methods:

1. In-class Mentoring

Mentors attend class in person and help the students with their learning in a small group or whole class setting.

2. eMentoring

An innovative online mentoring program that connects secondary school students in regional Victoria with eMentors over an interactive platform

Mentor Leaders Program

In 2021, with support from Toyota Community Trust, In2science launched the inaugural Mentor Leaders Program, which aims to accelerate mentors' leadership capacity. Experienced In2science mentors are paired with early-career STEM professionals to enhance their understanding of STEM career options and pathways.

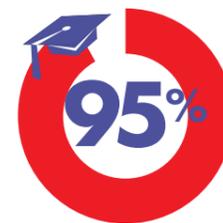
In turn, mentors support students to better understand the connections between curriculum, careers, and the importance of STEM skills for addressing global challenges. We have since expanded the program to run over both semesters, increased the number of mentor/mentee pairs, and had a greater range of industry participation. The program produces mutually beneficial and long-lasting relationships.

"I learned that being a mentor doesn't mean knowing everything. It's mostly about offering guidance for students to find their path on their own. It's about being a source of inspiration to boost their confidence and motivation to reach their goals."

- **Jolene, mentor, Deakin University**



92% of mentors believe that participation in In2science developed skills they will use in the future



95% of teachers agree that the mentor was a good role model and shared passion, experience and knowledge of career pathways using STEM

"Both mentors have been extremely helpful and valuable to the classes. They are a friendly face who is willing to spend the time supporting students who would otherwise find it difficult to complete work independently and are generally helpful to the running of class to support all students' questions."

- **Geraldine, teacher, Maribyrnong College**

"My mentor was amazing, she helped out with psychology stuff and study tips but she was an amazing person to be around and she made Fridays my favourite part of the week."

- **Year 8 student, Ballarat High School**



82% of students feel that everyone can understand science if they work at it

Benefits of In2science

School students experience

- positive interactions with role models in STEM
- increased engagement in STEM
- increased connections between curriculum and the real world

Teachers gain

- additional classroom assistance and support
- access to current knowledge in STEM
- understanding of university courses and links with universities

Mentors develop

- communication and interpersonal skills
- an understanding of teaching and are more likely to consider it as a vocational pathway
- enhanced graduate capabilities

Universities increase

- educational outcomes for their graduates
- strength of relationships with schools

Industry partners build

- deeper relationships with their communities through In2science partner schools
- connections with highly motivated mentors with outstanding communication and interpersonal skills
- understanding of, and influence on, their local STEM talent pipeline

	2023	Total since 2004
Partner schools	57	224
Mentor placements	214	3,951
Students	3,055	81,409