

Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAiSE) programme

Project briefing document

Job title: **National Education Officer, Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAiSE) programme**

Post details: This post is offered on a fixed-term contract basis to July 2026 in the first instance.

Location: The post-holder will be based in one of Education Scotland offices (In line with Scottish Government guidelines, Education Scotland staff are currently working from home).

Employed by: The Wood Foundation.

Reports to: The post-holder will be line managed by the Education Director at The Wood Foundation and will also report to a Senior Education Officer within Education Scotland.

Salary scale: Circa £49,240 to £61,617 – negotiable depending on experience.

Deadline for applications: 4pm on Friday 11th June 2021

Interviews to be held: Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Background

The Wood Foundation is a venture philanthropic organisation developing, delivering, and investing in, programmes and initiatives which empower educational, societal, and economic progress.

The UK team is primarily focussed on the development of young people in areas including youth philanthropy, STEM, global citizenship, system change and partnership working in education, and child poverty. Programmes include the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative, Raising Aspirations in Science Education, and Excelerate.

The Wood Foundation also invests in economic development in the UK and East Africa. The Africa team empowers smallholder farmers to achieve sustainable success from their land and crops.

Trustees: Sir Ian Wood (Chairman), Lady Helen Wood, Garreth Wood, Graham Good

The Wood Foundation, Scottish Registered Charity No. SC037957 is the Parent Charity of WF Africa, registered in Scotland as a company limited by guarantee and having charitable status. Company No. SC361033. Scottish Charity No. SC040580

The Wood Foundation was established by Sir Ian Wood and his immediate family in 2007 to address inequity and provide opportunities to deploy innovation, collaboration, and expertise to achieving transformational, lasting change.

In partnership with Education Scotland and Scottish Government, The Wood Foundation is looking to recruit a National Education Officer to lead the RAiSE programme.

The objective of the programme is to provide strategic support to secure improvements in primary science and STEM education in Scottish schools. The programme aims to develop a local authority's capacity to coordinate support for science and STEM and devise a sustainable model for on-going development and improvement. Each participating local authority receives funding to appoint a primary science development officer (PSDO). The PSDO leads the programme within the authority and coordinates the provision of high-quality professional learning and to develop the confidence, skills and enthusiasm of practitioners.

The ambition of the programme is to ensure all learners experience highly-engaging and motivating learning experiences in the sciences and STEM that enable them to contribute effectively to society as scientifically literate citizens. The programme will also seek to equip learners with skills for learning, life and work to enable them to access a wide range of stimulating and rewarding careers including those within science and STEM sectors.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the continued successful delivery of the programme which has engaged with sixteen local authorities to date. We have the ambition to work with the remaining authorities in Scotland over the next five years as appropriate. A key responsibility will be to provide strategic support to a network of Primary Science Development Officers (PSDOs) based in local authorities. The post-holder will also work closely with other partner organisations including Scottish Government, SSERC, the Association of Directors of Education (ADES) and local authorities to achieve the aims of the programme and ensure it aligns to national priorities and policies. This includes alignment to Scotland's STEM Education and Training Strategy, the Developing Young Workforce programme, National Improvement Framework, Scottish Attainment Challenge, Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy and promoting gender balance and equality in STEM.

Programme outcomes

- Build capacity at local authority level to deliver a coordinated approach to STEM education and to support sustainable and evolving improvements in STEM learning and teaching throughout primary schools.
- Work collegiately to support establishments in meeting the aspirations of the National Improvement Framework. Create and promote opportunities for practitioners to consider STEM as a context for developing literacy and numeracy skills.
- Promote joint curriculum planning to ensure effective progression in STEM learning between sectors from early years to secondary schools, including ASN provision where appropriate.

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- Contribute towards curriculum development which supports high quality, relevant and contextualised STEM learning, teaching and assessment. This should reflect the principles of CfE, align with the national benchmarks and exemplify the principles of good curriculum design.
- Build the confidence, skills, knowledge and enthusiasm of primary school practitioners through high quality CLPL in relation to the teaching of STEM content and pedagogy.
- Create and develop practitioner networks for primary science and STEM which promote communication, collaboration and the opportunities to share good practice.
- Strengthen connections between practitioners, partner organisations and industry sectors to ensure effective opportunities are provided for collaborative and collegiate networking.
- Establish and grow partnerships for STEM education through connections with a wide range of relevant agencies and local, national and international industry. Harness resources and local support which will help develop real-life context for STEM across schools and the wider school community.
- Develop and promote opportunities for all learners to increase their experiences, engagement, enthusiasm and achievement in STEM. Champion equality and challenge inequities in STEM learning and STEM opportunities where they exist.
- Support the development of skills progression in STEM through real life, contextualised learning opportunities linked to STEM careers. Make appropriate links to the Career Education Standard and the skills for learning, life and work.

For further information about this role please contact Gayle Duffus on email: gayle.duffus@educationscotland.gov.scot

To request an application pack please email: info@thewoodfoundation.org.uk

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