



Innovate  
UK

# Batteries and critical materials mentoring programme

## Including CPD-certified training for mentors

16-week mentoring programme December 2026 to March 2027



Unlock  
your  
potential!

[Apply now](#)

Open to applications from the following groups working in batteries & critical materials:

| Mentees                             |                                                                  | Mentors                                                            |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Women with any level of experience. | Early career professionals (0-5 years experience) of any gender. | Professionals of any gender with a minimum of 5 years' experience. |



Mentors do not require prior experience of mentoring. Selected mentors will gain fully-funded access to the STEMAZING 'Maximise mentoring impact' training programme delivered online by Alex Knight, founder of STEMAZING. This will start in November 2026 to support mentors to level-up their skills, confidence and toolbox for effective mentoring.



### Training

Enhance your mentoring skills and insight through online on-demand bite-size training videos to flexibly fit your schedule.



### Toolbox

Grow your mentoring toolbox with easy-to-use resources that will help engage and enrich your mentoring conversations.



### Tailored

Personalise your development journey with monthly 1-hour facilitated group sessions to maximise your growth.

**"Effective mentoring benefits both mentee and mentor when done well. This is a key part of the diversity and inclusion solution in STEM." Alex Knight MBE, STEMAZING CEO and founder.**

"Being a mentee in this programme has helped immeasurably to increase my confidence, to believe in myself and the value I add to my company as well as the wider sector."

Mentee



"I'd never been a mentor before, but the training was really helpful and joining the group mentor circles meant I got ideas from other mentors too."

Mentor

Contact [info@stemazing.co.uk](mailto:info@stemazing.co.uk) for more information

# Fully funded mentoring programme for batteries and critical materials

## further information

We are seeking to recruit mentors and mentees from across the UK batteries and critical materials value chain.

- Mentors: Experienced professionals from across the batteries & critical materials value chain. No prior mentoring experience needed as training and support provided.
- Mentees can select to join one of the following two groups: (1) Women with any level of experience, (2) Early career individuals (0–5 years' experience) of any gender.

The programme has two key strands: Mentor training, and structured mentoring sessions:

### Strand 1: Mentor training

A key aspect of this programme is ensuring mentors are supported and empowered to enable them to maximise their mentoring impact. The training is aimed at building confidence and a toolkit for new mentors whilst also providing those with previous mentor experience a fresh perspective and additional strategies.

The training will focus on:

- Guidance and support strategies: Providing frameworks for effective mentoring, including goal setting, feedback delivery, and problem-solving.
- Adaptive mentoring and coaching tools: Enhancing the mentor's ability to understand and respond to the mentee's needs.
- Continuous development: Mentors will be given resources and access to a support network to further their own professional development during and after the programme.

### Strand 2: Structured mentoring sessions

Participants will be carefully matched based on alignment of goals and expectations, ensuring a productive and supportive mentoring relationship.

### Eligibility:

- Mentors must work in the UK batteries or critical materials value chain and have professional experience in the supply chain e.g. materials/manufacturing, cells, packs, modules, battery integration, recycling/end-of-life, end-user (automotive or non-automotive).
- Mentors should have a desire to give back and support the next generation of leaders (prior mentoring experience is not a requirement).
- Mentees must work or research in the UK batteries or critical materials value chain and fit one of the two priority groups above (women and non-binary, or early career).
- Mentees should be individuals looking to advance in their careers and gain insight into leadership and innovation within their sector.

### Key details:

As this is a funded programme, there is a requirement to fully commit to the programme. The time commitment is around 4 hours a month for each mentoring relationship from December 2026 to March 2027, with an additional time of around 6 – 8 hours for mentor training up front for mentors in November 2026. All training will be delivered virtually, and mentoring sessions are also expected to be delivered virtually, unless matched pairs are able and choose to arrange in-person meetings.

### Key dates:

Discovery Webinar to find out more and ask questions: 12:30pm to 1pm on Monday 21 Sept 2026.

Application deadline: 11:59pm on Sunday 4 October 2026.

Selected participants will be notified by: Friday 23 October 2026.

Mentor Training will start on: Monday 2 November 2026.

Mentoring Meetings will run: December 2026 to March 2027.

Programme completes: at the end of March 2027.

**Apply now**

