

Dear <person>

I am writing to you to invite you to participate in Student Robotics. We run an exciting competition, held at the University of Southampton, between teams of students from sixth form schools and colleges, to build fully autonomous robots. Led by a group of students from Universities around the UK, participating teams will have to design, build and test their robots, ready to compete against other teams. We have a branch based at the University of Bristol and last year there were two teams competing in the Bristol area (Clifton High and QEH).

In order to build your robot we will supply you with some simple materials like wood and metal, and also some electronics designed and developed by us: these allow you to do things like control your motors, sense the environment around you and even use a webcam to see things within the competition environment. All of this comes together with a teams construction to form a fully automated robot (that means no remote controls!).

At the start of the academic year we hold a “kickstart” event for all participating schools to explain what is required from the robots and how to do it. This event is usually held at the University of Southampton. Then throughout the year a student from the University of Bristol will come to your school every week, to help oversee the construction of the robot and provide any advice needed.

Over the course of the academic year, we will also provide “tech days” at the University. During tech days we provide opportunities for the students to troubleshoot any problems they might have and have a full day to work on their robot free of distractions and surrounded by both mentors and excellent facilities.

The year culminates in the competition, a two day event held at the University of Southampton. The robots compete in large numbers of matches in order to determine who has built the best robot. This event usually involves every possible emotion swing, from the giddy highs of success to the last minute stresses of your robot not working with 30s to your next match!

This is an excellent opportunity for your students to learn some programming, electronics and mechanical skills in a real world project that is both enjoyable and fun. Everyone who takes part without fail says that they have enjoyed it, even the teachers!

If you intend to take part, or have any questions you should get in contact with me via my email address. In order to take part you need to find a team of 6-8 sixth form students who are interested/passionate about engineering or robotics and then come to the kickstart event at the beginning of the next academic year, date TBC but if you get in contact I'll let you know.

Yours Sincerely,  
Sam Phippen (Bristol branch coordinator)  
[spphippen@studentrobotics.org](mailto:spphippen@studentrobotics.org)