

Topic	Question	Reply	Number of upvotes
How to participate	Do we need to have our cameras on for mentoring or tutorial sessions	You will need to have your cameras on in mentoring sessions but tutorials will be a webinar like this one today and therefore cameras will be off.	361
	What are common mistakes people make starting the programme?	You can't really make mistakes in terms of the programme. The most important thing is that you understand that we want you to participate in 3 ways. 1. attempting questions in your subjects each week. 2. attending tutorials in your subjects 3. attend the fortnightly mentoring sessions.	168
	How would I let a tutor know i'm unable to attend?	Please use the form https://tinyurl.com/tellSTEMSMART	59
	Do i need a webcam?	Not if you have a smart phone - you can join mentoring sessions on your smart phone.	48
	if you answer questions after the due date, do they still count towards your total questions answered?	Yes.	41
	is it mandatory to attend every seminar?	In phase 1, each subject has two tutorials each week, which are a repeat of the content. You only need to attend one for each stream you are doing each week. we also expect students to attend mentor meetings.	37
	if i sign up to both meeting times and attend one a week does it affect my attendance	No	30
	Is it ok if I only do two STEM subjects at school?	Yes, as long as one of them is maths	19
	What If i'm not able to attend the tutorials every week?	Go to https://tinyurl.com/tellSTEMSMART	16
	Do i need to take 3 streams?	If you are studying three of the subjects at school then we would recommend it but this programme is voluntary so it is your choice.	8
	Do we have to have chosen maths	You have to do either Single Maths or Double Maths (but not both). To participate in STEM SMART you must be taking A level maths or equivalent and therefore take one of the maths streams on STEM SMART	3

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Subjects & STEM SMART streams	Will you go deeper into our subjects any further than A levels?	Occasionally we will go into more detail than is required for A-level. This will be more common in phase 2. Where we may cover some topics that are not on your exam board or you haven't covered yet, we will provide you with resources to support you with the questions. This programme is not _just_ about exams but also about preparation for the courses you hope to apply to.	157
	Are the streams based on a specific exam board and if they are, which ones	No, they are relevant to all exam boards	106
	Will the workload be heavy and will it be difficult to match with school?	The workload is approximately 1 hour per subject stream, plus the tutorials themselves. This is why we advise that students should do a maximum of 3 streams.	86
	If you take Maths Further Maths Physics and Chemistry is that 3 streams or 4?	This is 3 STEM SMART streams - double maths, physics and chemistry	68
	i did computer science gcse but it's not offered for a level, can i do computer science in stem smart?	You can do which ever subject streams that you wish but it is better to do 3 well (i.e. participate more in 3) than 4 thinly.	12
	When do we lock in our stream choices	You can change at any time, but it is better to get it right within the first few weeks.	36
	Am I wasting my time using STEMSMART if I want to apply to medicine	While we will not directly support you with applications to medicine, taking part in the programme will help you with your A levels, which will in turn help you with your university applications and once you get to university. Previous STEM SMARTies are studying medicine.	1
Assignments	How soon are the deadlines for assignments usually?	Due dates on assignments are set for 8 days after they were assigned but they remain available throughout the phase.	209
	If we need specific help for some questions on our assignments, who do we ask?	You ask your tutors during the tutorials	41
	Is there a way to track your own overall progress so you know how much % you've done	You can keep track in Moodle by clicking the boxes that say "mark as done". In Isaac you can go to https://isaacscience.org/assignments	20
	What time will the weekly assignments be posted?	They will be posted on the Saturday the week before. For example on 17th January for the week starting 19th January.	14
	How do I know all my work done is being seen and everything is being recorded?	If you are seeing the assignments appear on the My Assignment page in Isaac Science (https://isaacscience.org/assignments), we will be able to see your progress on the questions.	10

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Residential	When will people find out if they have a place at the residential in august	Near the end of phase 1.	183
	From the 2840 students, how many would be invited to the residential?	Around 500	110
	Do you have to pay for the residential	No, the residential is free and students can be reimbursed for transport.	98
	Is it possible to know the dates for the residential in August?	Two residentials one will be 16-19 August, and one 19-22 August. The first one is mainly for phys/chem/engineering, the second one is mainly for chem/biol/life sciences.	73
	What can you do to be more likely to get selected for the residential?	Attempt questions, attend the tutorials and attend the mentor sessions.	33
	If I'm only taking my two subjects because of my alevel subjects does that make me less likely to go on the residential ?	No, you have equal chance, we look at engagement as a proportion of the number of STEM SMART subjects that you are studying at school (up to a maximum of 3).	11
	Do I need to have intentions to go to an Oxbridge uni, to go to the residential?	No, you do not. It will still be beneficial as it will give you the opportunity to experience general university life as a student.	7
Other questions	I have a question about sharing contact details, say you make a friend with someone halfway through the program and want to work together, would we be allowed?	You cannot share your contact details through the STEM SMART programme. If you are at the same school and know each other then working together is fine. If you are both invited to the residential then you will be able to meet each other there.	91
	Can the certificates we receive in December be used in CVs?	yes - you can share them as you wish it will be a pdf that is sent to you.	32
	Does isaac science ever give you the correct answers to the work so you are able to work backwards?	No, but we do provide hints and you can always ask for help during a tutorial. Or you can ask for help using the flag button, but do include the solution you've already tried in the message that you send (since it's not automatically included).	26

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Other questions	Is there any evidence that we can obtain from this programme and being put on our personal statement before December if we are to apply to Oxbridge	Students can mention STEM SMART in their personal statements and admissions tutors will take it into account in assessing applications BUT be specific about what you have actually done on the programme don't just list it as a thing. Tell them what is involved, how many questions you have done, how this has helped you to decide what course to apply for.....	19
	Will tutorials be recorded if we can't attend one	The tutorial sessions will be recorded and posted to the Moodle a week later.	16
	Is there extra help for people with autism and dyslexia?	We will endeavour to make resources available in a variety of formats. Sessions are recorded as well for you to use (Moodle gives a wide range of support resources). In addition, you will be able to send in any requests you may have via https://tinyurl.com/tellSTEMSMART There are no hard deadlines in this programme - so choose the questions to do, and do them at the speed you wish to do them.	14
	Why doesn't isaac science tell you the right answer after a certain number of attempts	It is important to keep having a go as it is important to learn from your mistakes. Also many students would just enter anything until the correct answer was revealed. Tutorials will go through the concepts each week and show how to get started on the questions. You can also ask for clarification during the tutorials.	12
	What if the questions and tutorials cover things you have not covered in school	We will explain how to do each of the topics in STEM SMART, so we encourage students who haven't seen topics before to give them a try using the support material we provide. Information to help with answering questions is provided for each subject on Moodle each week.	10
	Are mentoring sessions recorded?	Yes, but for safeguarding purposes only - STEM SMARTies will not be able to access them.	8
	I'm in scotland, so will I have to work through my holidays?	We take into account the varying holiday times for different regions and will be flexible during those times to allow students to do the work at a suitable time.	8