

GREAT EVENTS GUIDE.

Institution of
**MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS**

A guide for volunteers

Issue three



Improving the world through engineering

imeche.org



Packed with inspiration, this third edition of the Great Events Guide has been compiled to support best practice, share new ideas and event tips. It's the best advice from volunteers who've been there, tested ideas and innovated new ways to share inspiring engineering content.

Katherine Hayes

Operations Executive - Regions & Young Members

**This guide has been produced by the
Young Members Board**

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Introduction

Welcome to the IMechE's Great Events Guide. This guide has been produced by the IMechE's Young Members Board (YMB) for use by all committees, panels, and groups across the Member's Network.

Whether your committee is seasoned organisers or planning the very first event, this guide is here to inspire, support and energise your efforts. The Institution of Mechanical Engineers is proud to showcase a wide range of successful event formats, creative ideas, and practical tips contributed by our vibrant Young Members Board.

Inside, you'll find examples of engaging activities—from technical talks and site visits to competitions, outreach programmes, and social gatherings—all designed to connect engineers, promote learning, and build lasting networks. Each idea has been suggested from previously run events, making it easier for you to replicate, adapt, or innovate.

We hope this guide helps you spark new ideas, overcome planning challenges, and deliver memorable experiences for your committee.

Let's keep engineering exciting, inclusive, and impactful—one great event at a time.

Young members board (YMB)

Every year the Board conducts a number of projects aligned with specific objectives which aim to help further the interest of Young Members of the Institution by:

- Providing a medium for Young Members to represent other Young Members
- Review issues which affect the profession
- Providing a communication channel for Young Members
- Holding training days and designing resource materials for Young Members
- Liaising with the Young Members of other professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs) both UK-based and International

- Promoting continuous professional development (CPD)
- Lobbying for change both within and external to the IMechE
- Supporting the Young Members across all Regions, Divisions and Groups.

Find out more about the YMB at www.imeche.org/YMB-Board.

Why have we created this guide?

The Young Members Board (YMB) is committed to sharing best practice across the Institution, and we've seen many Member Network committees deliver outstanding events that deserve wider recognition. Organising events is a core activity of the Member Network, and this guide has been created to capture and share tried-and-tested formats, technical visits, and outreach ideas that can inspire volunteers across all regions and disciplines. This guide is designed to:

- Help new committees get started by showcasing examples of successful events
- Support committees with limited resources by providing ready-to-use, pre-designed event templates
- Inspire established committees to explore new formats and fresh ideas
- Reduce duplication of effort by offering a central resource for annual event planning
- Promote events that contribute directly to the Institution's learned society objectives.

How can you get involved?

Do you know of a fantastic event that deserves to be featured in future editions of this guide? We'd love to hear from you! Please send details of the event, including how it was organised, to youngmembers@imeche.org. If possible, include supporting resources such as poster or flyer templates, social media graphics, and promotional materials—these will help other committees replicate your success.

Our aim is to keep this guide fresh and relevant by regularly updating it with inspiring, high-impact events from across the Member Network!

About the guide

This guide has been split into sections covering the different types of events:

- **Learned Society Events**
- **Professional Development Events**
- **Engineering Social Events**
- **Institutional Competitions**

To help committees better understand and select suitable events, we've added a rating scale to each event page. These ratings cover Scalability, Effort to Organise, Financial Requirements, and Repeatability—giving you a quick snapshot of what's involved and how adaptable each idea is. This makes it easier to match events to your committee's capacity, resources and goals.



Scalability

How many people can the event accommodate?



Effort to Organise

How much time and coordination is required?



Financial Requirements

What level of funding is typically required?



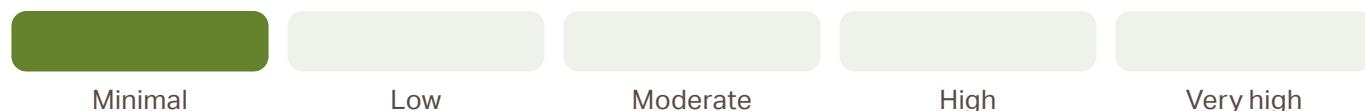
Repeatability

How often could this type of event be run?

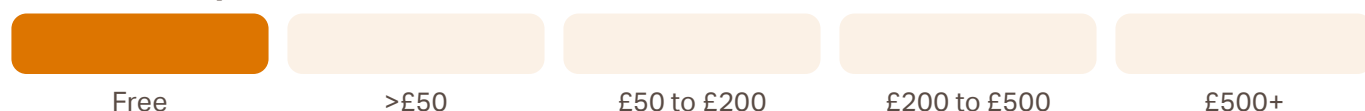
Scalability



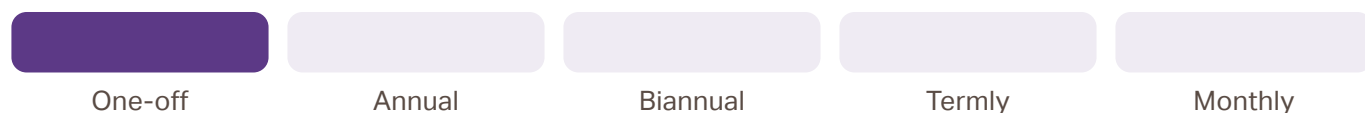
Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability





Helpful hints and tips

While each event idea in this guide includes tailored advice, here are some broader tips to help you plan and deliver successful events:

1. **Just give it a go!** – Every successful event starts with someone deciding to make it happen. Don't let uncertainty stop you—start with a simple idea and build from there. Even small events can create big impact and valuable experiences.
2. **Plan in advance** – While we suggest just making a start and giving it a go, keep in mind the timeline leading up to the event. Make sure you give yourself enough time to secure a venue or advertise the event.
3. **Check the calendar** – Double check the calendar when planning your event. Events such as school holidays, University exam periods and local holidays can impact on attendance. Even other PEI events, local pub quiz nights or similar local events can also have an impact.
4. **Share the load** – Spread responsibilities across your committee to avoid burnout and make the most of everyone's strengths. Supporting each other is key to sustaining volunteer energy and enthusiasm. Remember we are all volunteers.
5. **Promote with purpose** – Use a mix of channels—email, social media, posters, and word-of-mouth. Clear, engaging visuals and concise messaging make a big difference. Don't forget to follow up with reminders.
6. **Reflect and improve** – After the event, gather feedback from attendees and your committee. What worked well? What could be better? Use this insight to refine future events and share your learnings with others.

Online and hybrid events

While nothing compares to the networking and hands-on value of an in-person event, fully online sessions offer a cost-effective way for committees to enhance their annual programme. They allow panels to supplement the calendar with additional activities without the expense of venue hire, catering, or travel.

Hybrid events further increase accessibility and engagement, enabling participants from outside the region to join and benefit from the experience. Many traditional formats—such as technical lectures, workshops, and challenge showcases—can be adapted into hybrid models, combining the impact of face-to-face interaction with the flexibility of virtual participation.

Tip: The Volunteer Resource Centre provides training and guidance on delivering hybrid or online events, including Microsoft Teams Webinar training and best-practice templates.



When planning online or hybrid events, consider: Microsoft Teams:

- IMechE volunteers are encouraged to use their Microsoft Teams accounts for hosting webinars and interactive sessions. Teams offers robust features such as breakout rooms, polls and Q&A tools to enhance engagement

Technical preparation:

- Test audio, video, and screen-sharing in advance
- Ensure presenters are familiar with the platform and have backup options
- Provide clear joining instructions and technical support for attendees

Audience engagement:

- Use interactive features such as polls, chat, and breakout rooms to replicate networking opportunities

Recording:

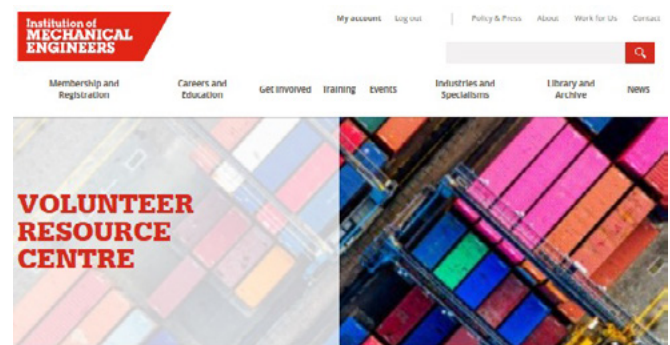
- Record webinars for on-demand viewing and share via the IMechE public YouTube channel (see guidance documents for upload instructions on the Volunteer Resource Centre)
- Inform attendees in advance that the session will be recorded

Volunteer resource centre

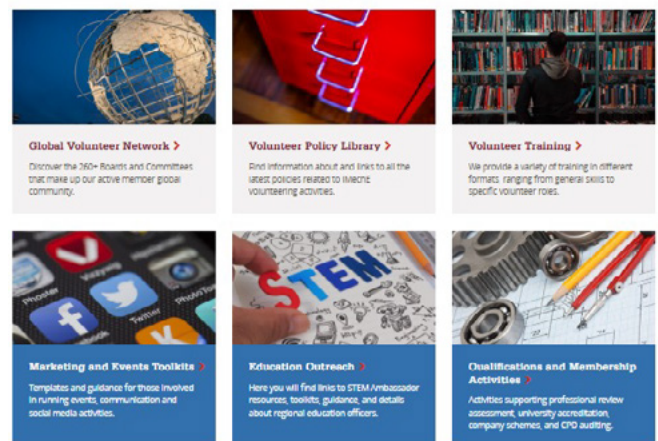
The Volunteer Resource Centre is your go-to hub for tools, templates, and guidance to support your role as an IMechE volunteer. You can access it directly through the dashboard on your IMechE account.

Inside, you'll find:

- Digital tools such as the Mass Mailing system and Events Management platform to help you communicate and organise effectively.
- Policies and guidance documents to ensure your activities align with the Institution's standards.
- Toolkits and templates for event planning, promotion, and reporting—saving you time and helping you deliver professional, consistent events.



The Volunteer Resource Centre has been designed to provide you with all the information you need to excel in your role as a volunteer. From learning about the different volunteering opportunities we offer, to understanding your responsibilities and the support available to you. These webpages are your go-to resource for all things volunteering.



LEARNED SOCIETY EVENTS

Technical visit

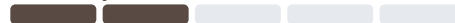


Duration

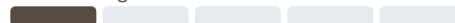


2 hours

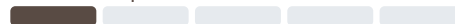
Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



A technical visit involves arranging a guided tour of a company, factory, plant, or site of engineering interest. These visits typically begin with a short presentation or introduction from the host organisation, followed by a walk-through of the facility.



Aim

- Deliver an engaging and informative visit for IMechE members and the general public
- Raise awareness of both the Institution and local engineering organisations



Benefits

- Stimulates interest in IMechE activities within the local community
- Strengthens relationships between IMechE and local companies
- Supports company recruitment efforts by showcasing their work
- Encourages networking among attendees and hosts
- Contributes to members' Continuous Professional Development (CPD)



Format

- Attendees arrive and network
- Welcome and company introduction (often including short presentation of the company)
- Host takes attendees on guided tour of site (possibly in multiple small groups) for approximately 1 hour
- Q&A Session
- Closing thanks from IMechE volunteer



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event

1–2

Volunteers at the event

1–2



Financial requirement

Estimated budget

Free

Event type

Free

Sponsorship required

No

Estimates of key budget breakdown

Technical visits are typically free, based on the hospitality of the Company. Visits to museums or local heritage sites may cost, typically attendees can pay on arrival.



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, time, capacity and site requirements
2. Request a tour outline and company info for promotion
3. Publish event on IMechE NearYou
4. Promote via email, social media, and local channels
5. Ensure a committee member attends to host/support



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Prioritise confirming the date of event, host, and company venue
- Promote the event around three weeks in advance via email and social media for maximum reach

Pitfalls to avoid

- Last-minute planning and promotion, as this often leads to low engagement.
- Limited capacity means event fills quickly — send reminders 2 days before to confirm attendance and allow cancellations.

Technical lecture



Duration



2 hours

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



A technical lecture is a presentation on an engineering topic of interest, delivered by an expert speaker. It typically includes a talk supported by slides, followed by audience Q&A.



Aim

- Share technical knowledge and insights with IMechE members and the public
- Promote professional development and engagement with the Institution



Benefits

- Enhances members' technical understanding and CPD
- Builds connections between engineers and industry experts
- Raises awareness of IMechE activities locally
- Encourages networking among attendees



Format

- Attendees arrive and networking with refreshments (optional) such as tea/coffees
- Introduction of speaker by IMechE host
- Technical lecture (45–60 mins)
- Q&A session
- Closing thanks from IMechE host
- Refreshments and networking (optional)



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event **2–3**

Volunteers at the event **2**



Financial requirement

Estimated budget	~£200 to £2000 (dependent upon capacity and venue)
Event type	Free or Paid
Sponsorship required	Optional

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Venue Hire: Usually the largest expense. Partnerships with local industry or universities can reduce or eliminate this cost
- Speaker Fees and Expenses: High-profile speakers may charge; typical cost ~£200
- Refreshments: Varies by attendee numbers and venue policy



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm speaker, topic, date, and venue
2. Obtain lecture summary and speaker bio for promotion
3. Publish event on IMechE NearYou
4. Promote via email, social media, and local channels
5. Ensure AV equipment and seating are arranged



Helpful hints and tips

What works well	• Promote the event at least one month in advance • Choose a high-profile, popular, or topical subject to attract attendees
Pitfalls to avoid	• Avoid scheduling during school holidays, university exam periods, or local holidays to maximise attendance • Check for conflicting local events, including other PEI activities • Poor venue choice or an uninteresting topic can significantly reduce turnout

CADathon



Duration



Full day (8:30 – 18:30)

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



The CADathon is a full-day design challenge where teams create and model innovative solutions using CAD software. Each team consists of 3–4 young engineers—typically university students or apprentices—working collaboratively to solve a defined problem. The challenge is structured in two phases: first, teams conceptualise their ideas, and then refine them during the detailed design phase, producing a CAD model that demonstrates technical feasibility, creativity, and sustainability.

The theme for 2025 focused on sustainable residential housing, inspired by UN SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.

Aim

- Encourage creativity and technical skills through a hands-on design challenge
- Promote collaboration and networking among young engineers
- Support sustainability awareness and innovation in engineering design



Benefits

- Engineers tackle real world problem bridging academic learning with real world applications
- Enhances CAD proficiency and problem-solving skills
- Provides CPD opportunities for participants
- Builds connections between students, professionals and industry partners



Format

08:30 – Arrival, registration, breakfast
09:00 – Welcome brief
10:00 – Design Phase 1 (Concept Design)
12:00 – Lunch
12:30 – Design Phase 2 (Developed Design)
15:45 – Judging rounds
17:30 – Finals (Top 4 teams)
18:10 – Closing ceremony



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event

5

Volunteers at the event

5 + Judges



Financial requirement

Estimated budget

£500 to £2000

Event type

Free

Sponsorship required

Recommended

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Venue hire (largest cost; partnerships reduce expense)
- Catering (lunch, refreshments)
- Prizes and materials
- Speaker/judge expenses



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, venue, and theme
2. Secure sponsors and judges
3. Prepare challenge brief and scoring rubric
4. Publish event on IMechE NearYou and promote via social media
5. Arrange catering, AV setup, and CAD resources
6. Assign mentors and volunteers for support



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Choose a clear, topical theme (e.g., sustainability)
- Provide structured phases and mentor support
- Promote at least 6 weeks in advance

Pitfalls to avoid

- Overcomplicated briefs—keep challenge achievable in one day
- Lack of CAD resources or technical support
- Poor time management—stick to schedule for judging and finals



Fresh from the Young Members Board comes the latest release of our Great Events Guide. We've pulled together best practice from across the young members community of the Institution to bring you a how to guide for our most popular events. Whether you're just starting out or an established panel, the Great Events Guide contains a wide selection of event ideas for you to draw from to help you build a community for engineers in your local area.

Nicky Valentine
Young Members Board Chair

Business breakfast



Duration



4 hours

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



The Business Breakfast is a half-day networking and knowledge-sharing event. This event brings together professionals, industry leaders, and aspiring engineers for an engaging morning of talks, networking, and career development—all over a complimentary breakfast.



Aim

- Provide a platform for networking and collaboration among engineers and industry professionals.
- Share insights on current trends, entrepreneurship, and career development.
- Promote volunteering and professional registration opportunities within IMechE.



Benefits

- Expand professional networks and build industry connections
- Gain practical advice on career progression and entrepreneurship
- Raise awareness of IMechE activities and volunteering opportunities
- Contribute to members' Continuous Professional Development (CPD)



Format

Example agenda from the western region's Business Breakfast:
 08:30 – Breakfast and networking
 09:30 – Welcome and introductions
 09:40 – LinkedIn unlocked: Build your network, boost your career
 10:10 – Entrepreneurship in engineering: Starting your own venture
 10:40 – Tea/Coffee and networking
 11:30 – Group activity: What training would benefit your career?
 12:00 – Volunteering: Boost your career and impact the profession
 12:20 – Closing remarks



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event **2–3**

Volunteers at the event

3

- Setup of venue
- Welcoming and registration



Financial requirement

Estimated budget	~£500 (depends on capacity and venue)
Event type	Free
Sponsorship required	Optional

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Catering (large cost)
- Venue hire (often free via partnerships)
- Promotional materials (optional)



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, venue, and capacity
2. Secure sponsorship and arrange catering
3. Recruit speakers and confirm topics
4. Prepare agenda and assign volunteer roles
5. Test AV equipment and compile presentations
6. Promote event via NearYou, email, and social media
7. Track registrations and send reminders
8. Prepare networking activities and discussion prompts



Helpful hints and tips

What works well	• Promote early using LinkedIn and social media • Keep talks short and interactive • Encourage networking during breaks
Pitfalls to avoid	• Overly technical presentations—keep content accessible • Poor time management—stick to schedule

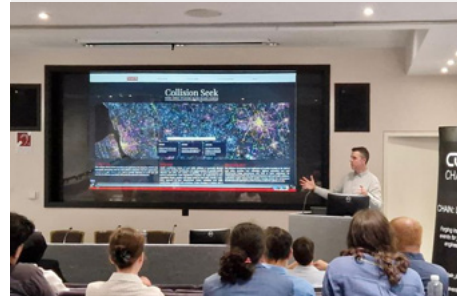
Chain

CHAIN is a one-day inter-institutional event designed specifically to engage, inform and inspire early careers engineers based in a specific area. Aimed at ages 15 to early-30s, from students and apprentices to recent graduates and those aiming to gain professional registration.

For more details: <https://www.chainevents.org.uk/>

Aim

- Present a cross-section of the engineering world to inform young people about a wide range of projects and ideas happening today.
- Inform attendees about current and future issues that may affect them as engineers.
- Explain the different institutions that are available, who they are, who they cater for and specifically what they do in the local area, even if the institution does not have a local network.
- Encourage young people who are interested in engineering in their local area to network and get involved with their local engineering community.
- Inspire and create opportunities for all those that attend the event.



Duration



1 day

Scalability



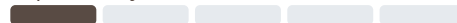
Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



Benefits

- Engage with a diverse audience, including individuals, institutions, and organisations
- Build connections through networking and collaboration—share ideas, discover speakers, and event opportunities, recruit volunteers, and learn from a wide range of perspectives
- Raise the profile of engineering and your organisation while fostering a strong local engineering community



Format

The following example format was used at the Manchester CHAIN 2025 event held in November 2025:

09:00 – Registration
 09:30 – Welcome
 09:35 – About CHAIN
 09:50 – Speaker 1: ICE – The third sustainability pillar
 10:20 – Speaker 2: NI – Nuclear myth busting around the world.
 10:45 – Break
 11:10 – Speaker 3: IStructE – Building a sustainable future
 11:35 – Speaker 4: IMechE
 12:00 – Panel discussion
 12:35 – Lunch
 13:20 – Welcome and panel Q&A reminder
 13:25 – Speaker 5: IChemE – Access is sustainability
 13:55 – Speaker 6: CIBSE – Sustainable knowledge transfer through mentoring
 14:20 – Break
 14:45 – Speaker 7: CIWM – Sustainability in the waste management industry
 15:10 – Panel discussion
 15:45 – Closing remarks and thanks



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event

2–3 for the lead institution:

- 1 Coordinator
- 1 Speaker liaison
- 1 Media

1 per participating Institution:

- Arrange a speaker
- Liaise with other institutions
- Organise stall and advertising

Volunteers at the event

5 from lead institution:

- 1 Master of Ceremonies
- 2 Meet and greet delegates
- 2 run stalls

3 per participating institutions to run their stall (in addition to their speaker)



Financial requirement		Estimates of key budget breakdown
Estimated budget	~£2000	• The Manchester CHAIN event used a free room provided by a local university • The largest cost was catering for 150 people, approx. £1000. The cost should be shared between participating Institutions; cost is between £100 - £200 per institution • There should be no charge for CHAIN delegates • Other costs are optional including promotional materials – pens, bags, and leaflets. Wristbands for entry are relatively cheap. Roller banners can be supplied upon request • Each Institution to bring its own promotional materials, leaflets, etc at their own cost
Event type	Free	
Sponsorship required	Yes	
Planning step-by-step		
1. Liaise with CHAIN Events 2. Confirm the date, venue, and capacity for the event 3. Secure a venue (preferably free via a local university) and arrange catering 4. Share catering costs among participating institutions and confirm sponsorship for optional materials 5. Invite institutions to take part and assign roles (speaker, stall, promotion) 6. Confirm speakers early, collect titles, bios, and presentations 7. Create the programme with timings for talks, breaks and panels 8. Assign roles for the day (MC, timekeeper, volunteers for registration and stalls)		9. Test AV equipment, microphones, and clicker; compile presentations into one deck 10. Prepare signage, wristbands, and registration desk materials 11. Promote the event on NearYou and social media using a unique hashtag; share through institutions 12. Track registrations and attendee details; send reminders before the event 13. Encourage institutions to bring laptops for sign-ups and offer mailing list registration 14. On the day, manage greeting, stalls, technical support, and keep sessions on time
Helpful hints and tips		
What works well	• Start promoting early on social media using unique, relevant hashtag. This builds visibility and signals activity to partner organisations • Invest in a reliable wireless clicker and test it beforehand • Collect all presentations in advance and compile into a single deck to avoid delays during speaker transitions • Engage speakers early—confirm titles, format, and event objectives. Provide clear guidance on timing and expectations • Track attendee details (student, graduate, institution member) for follow-up and reporting • Assign a timekeeper to keep sessions on schedule, especially Q&A • Have roving microphones ready for audience questions • Encourage participating organisations to bring laptops for on-the-spot sign-ups • Offer mailing list registration for those not ready to join formally • Prepare concise speaker intros in advance—consider asking speakers to submit their own bio	

Panel debate



Duration



2 hours

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



Aim

- Deliver an innovative, engaging event for engineering professionals
- Address current and future challenges relevant to the profession
- Foster collaboration between engineering institutions



Benefits

- Strengthens relationships with other PEIs
- Sparks lively debate on topical issues
- Promotes knowledge sharing and networking



Format

- Chairperson introduction (5 mins)
- Panel introductions (10 mins)
- Debate (60 mins)
- Audience Q&A and closing remarks (20 mins)
- Post-event networking (upto 1 hour)



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event

5

Volunteers at the event

5 (incl. event chair person)



Financial requirement

Estimated budget

~£200 to £1000
(depends on capacity and venue)

Event type

Free or Paid

Sponsorship required

Optional

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Venue hire: Often the largest expense; partnerships with universities or industry help reduce costs
- Panelist fees and expenses: High-profile speakers may charge (typical cost ~£200 per speaker)
- Refreshments: Optional, based on venue and audience size



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm topic, panellists, date, and venue
2. Gather speaker bios and debate outline for promotion
3. Publish on IMechE NearYou and promote via email/ social media
4. Arrange AV setup and seating for panel and audience
5. Assign volunteers for hosting, time-keeping and Q&A management



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Choose a topical, high-impact theme to attract interest
- Promote at least 4 weeks in advance
- Encourage audience participation for a dynamic event

Pitfalls to avoid

- Scheduling during school holidays, exam periods, or local holidays
- Overlooking conflicts with other PEI or local events
- Poor venue layout or unclear debate structure

Pint of science



The Pint of Science Festival is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers that brings some of the most brilliant scientists to local pubs to discuss their latest research and findings with the general public. The festival runs every year in May over three consecutive evenings at six pubs in each participating city around the world. Each pub hosts one particular theme for three nights.

<https://pintofscience.co.uk>

Aim

- Make engineering approachable and exciting for the general public
- Promote IMechE and its role in advancing engineering knowledge
- Support outreach and inspire future engineers

Duration

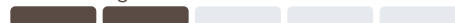


2 hours per session

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



Benefits

- Raises public awareness of engineering challenges and solutions
- Strengthens IMechE's community engagement and visibility
- Provides networking opportunities for members and researchers
- Contributes to CPD for speakers and volunteers



Format

One to three evenings, Approx 3-4 hours starting from 7pm at a local pub:

- Welcome and introduction by IMechE representative
- Presentations from speakers, panel discussion, quiz, interactive activities, etc.



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event

1-2

- Arrange venue
- Identify speakers
- Advertise event

Volunteers at the event

2

- Welcome guest and speakers
- Introduce IMechE and speakers



Financial requirement

Estimated budget

£200 per evening

Event type

Paid

Sponsorship required

Optional

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Central Pint of Science charges a £200 fee to allow an external organisation (IMechE) to organise a single event
- Ticket revenue goes to Pint of Science



Planning step-by-step

1. Liaise with Pint of Science local coordinators to confirm dates and topics
2. Arrange venue
3. Recruit speakers
4. Promote via Pint of Science channels, email, IMechE NearYou, and social media
5. Assign volunteers for hosting and audience engagement



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Contact Pint of Science October to March
- Work Closely with the local Pint of Science to identify a suitable venue and speaker
- Look for speakers who have recently presented at a similar outreach event, who can present to a generalist audience
- Promote early and leverage Pint of Science's existing audience
- Find a catchy title, remember the audience is not specialised in the field
- Two to Three speakers per night (15 min each), with a demonstration and/or panel discussion is a successful format

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Application workshop



A one-day interactive workshop designed to help attendees complete their professional registration application (CEng, IEng, EngTech) via the standard route. 6 to 12 Participants are guided through the application form and UK-SPEC competences, aiming to have most of the form completed by the end of the session. Attendees commit to submitting their application within an agreed timeframe. To organise contact your local IMechE Membership Development Manager.



Aim

- Support engineers in progressing toward professional registration
- Provide clear guidance on UK-SPEC competences and application requirements
- Build confidence in completing the application and preparing for the Professional Review Interview

Duration



1 day

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



Benefits

- Helps individuals advance their careers through professional registration
- Valuable resource for employers supporting staff development
- Engages Associate members and early-career engineers in the region



Format

Run by an IMechE Membership Development Manager (MDM) in a region or company. Covers:

- Introductory presentation on UK-SPEC and IMechE application process
- Interactive workshop covering each UK-SPEC competence in detail
- Guidance on preparing for the Professional Review Interview



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event

1

- Always contact your local MDM before organising
- Liaise with MDM to organise event

Volunteers at the event

1

- Support the MDM on the day



Financial requirement

Estimated budget

~£200

Event type

Free

Sponsorship required

No

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Venue hire



Planning step-by-step

1. Contact your local Membership Development Manager (MDM) before organising
2. Confirm date, venue, and capacity with MDM
3. Ensure attendees meet qualification and experience requirements
4. Require pre-work completion before the event
5. Arrange venue and basic AV setup
6. Promote via NearYou, email, and local networks
7. Confirm attendees bring laptops with application forms ready
8. Support MDM during the event (registration, logistics)



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Confirm when booking that participant has the right qualifications, level of experience and intent to register within a few weeks of completing the workshop
- Ensure all people registering for the course complete the pre-work
- Attendees are required to bring a laptop with the professional registration forms on so they can participate effectively in the interactive workshop

CV writing /Interview training



A practical, interactive workshop designed for university students to improve their employability skills. The session focuses on creating strong CVs and preparing for interviews, helping attendees stand out in competitive job markets. Includes expert advice, real-world examples, and mock interview practice.

Aim

- Equip students with the skills to write effective CVs tailored to engineering roles
- Provide strategies and confidence for successful interviews
- Support career readiness and transition from education to employment

Duration



3–4 hours

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



Benefits

- Enhances employability and job application success
- Builds confidence in professional communication
- Strengthens links between IMechE and universities
- Encourages student engagement with IMechE membership and CPD



Format

- Welcome and introductions
- Presentation: What makes a great CV?
- Interactive CV review session
- Tips for interviews and common questions
- Mock interviews or group role-play exercises
- Q&A and networking



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event

3–6

- Arrange venue
- Promote event

Volunteers at the event

5–6

- Introduce Event
- Review CVs



Financial requirement

Estimated budget

Free (Venue dependent)

Event type

Free

Sponsorship required

No

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Event organised for students with University or University Society to secure venue for free



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, venue, and capacity with the university
2. Recruit facilitators (career advisors, engineers, HR professionals)
3. Prepare workshop materials (CV templates, interview tips, sample questions)
4. Arrange AV setup for presentations
5. Promote via university channels, NearYou and social media.



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Keep sessions interactive
- Provide real examples of strong CVs and interview answers

Pitfalls to avoid

- Overly generic advice—tailor content to engineering careers
- Too much theory—focus on practical application

Get Registered



Duration



2–3 hours

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



A 2–3-hour session from the Membership Development Managers designed to introduce members and potential members to professional registration (EngTech, IEng, CEng). The event provides practical steps for choosing the right route, explains the application process, and highlights available support. Attendees learn about UK-SPEC competences and next steps, with opportunities for one-to-one or group support.



Aim

- Explain the benefits of professional registration and IMechE membership
- Provide clear guidance on UK-SPEC and application requirements
- Help attendees identify the right registration route and next steps



Benefits

- Supports members and employers in progressing toward registration
- Engages Associate members and early-career engineers
- Strengthens links with SMEs and local employers



Format

- Usually held in the evening to enable attendance after work
- Welcome and introductions
 - Presentation by Membership Development Manager (MDM):
 - Overview of IMechE and membership benefits
 - Professional registration routes and UK-SPEC framework
 - Application process and support available
 - Q&A and networking
 - Offer of follow-up one-to-one or group support



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event

1–3
Depending on size of event

Volunteers at the event

1–3
Depending on size of event



Financial requirement

Estimated budget

~£200

Event type

Free

Sponsorship required

No

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Venue Hire
- Refreshments (Optional)



Planning step-by-step

1. Contact your regional MDM early to confirm date and format
2. Book a venue accessible (consider free options)
3. Optional: Arrange light refreshments (coffee, snacks)
4. Promote via NearYou, email, and local networks
5. Confirm volunteer support for registration and logistics



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Involve the MDM from the start and plan marketing early
- Use local networks to attract existing and new members

Pitfalls to avoid

- High venue costs or locations difficult to access after work
- Last-minute promotion—plan at least 3 weeks ahead

ENGINEERING SOCIAL EVENTS

Cheers to Careers



Cheers to Careers (formerly Careers & Beers) is an informal networking event designed to connect university students and early-career engineers with industry professionals in a relaxed setting. Held in a local venue such as a pub or café, the event combines career advice, networking opportunities, and light refreshments to create an approachable environment for discussing career paths and professional development.

Aim

- Provide students and graduates with insights into engineering careers and industry trends
- Facilitate networking between young members and experienced professionals
- Promote IMechE membership and volunteering opportunities

Duration



2–3 hours

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



Benefits

- Builds confidence and professional networks for attendees
- Strengthens links between IMechE and local universities
- Encourages engagement with IMechE activities and CPD



Format

- Welcome and introductions
- Short talks from professionals on career journeys and tips
- Informal networking over drinks and snacks
- Q&A session and discussion groups



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event **1–2**

Volunteers at the event **2–3**



Financial requirement

Estimated budget **~£200**

Event type **Free**

Sponsorship required **Optional**

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Venue hire ~£200
- Refreshments (Optional)



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, venue, and capacity (choose an accessible, informal location).
2. Invite local industry or alumni representatives.
3. Optional: Arrange catering or drinks.
4. Promote via university channels, NearYou and social media.



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Invite industry representatives, especially those with career opportunities
- Use social media and university networks for promotion

Pitfalls to avoid

- Overly formal presentations—maintain a relaxed tone
- Ensure enough industry professionals are present

Welcome event



Duration



3 hours

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



An informal social and networking event hosted by the Young Members Panels. Designed for students, recent graduates, and young professionals, this event provides an opportunity to meet fellow engineers, learn about IMechE, and discover ways to get involved with the panel—all in a relaxed setting with no formal agenda.



Aim

- Welcome new and existing young members to the local engineering community
- Promote IMechE membership and volunteering opportunities
- Encourage networking and professional growth in an informal environment



Benefits

- Builds connections among students, graduates and professionals
- Raises awareness of IMechE activities and benefits
- Encourages engagement and participation in future events



Format

- Informal social gathering—no formal presentations
- Networking and conversation over drinks
- Opportunity to meet the Young Members Panel and learn how to get involved



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event **1–2**

Volunteers at the event **2–3**



Financial requirement

Estimated budget **~£200**

Event type **Free**

Sponsorship required **Optional**

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Venue hire



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, venue, and capacity (choose a central, accessible location)
2. Liaise with venue for booking and any costs
3. Promote via NearYou, Email, Social Media, and university channels
4. Prepare a short welcome message and presentation on the IMechE and local panel



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Keep the tone relaxed and welcoming
- Use social media and local networks for promotion
- Encourage attendees to bring questions about careers and membership

Pitfalls to avoid

- Overly formal structure—this is a social event
- Choosing venues that are hard to access or too costly

History trial/Treasure hunt



Duration



1.5 hours + Networking

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



A fun, interactive social event where participants explore a city or region to uncover its industrial or cultural history through a series of clues and locations. Originally run as the RailTrail in London, this format can be adapted for any area with historical significance.



Aim

- Highlight local history and heritage in an engaging way
- Encourage teamwork, problem-solving, and clear communication
- Provide networking opportunities in a relaxed, informal setting
- Promote learning about the evolution of industries or landmarks



Benefits

- Participants gain knowledge about local history and industry
- Builds connections between attendees through collaborative tasks
- Combines physical activity with mental challenges
- Can be tailored to any theme (rail, maritime, architecture, etc.)



Format

- Teams of ~4 people, randomly assigned for networking
- Start at a fixed location with the first clue
- Each location provides the next clue, leading through 4–6 stops
- Bonus points for discovering historical facts or answering trivia
- Networking at the end with refreshments and prize-giving
- Volunteers stationed at key points to assist and verify progress
- Clues start easy and become progressively harder



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event	1–2 • Location identifying • Clue generation • Route testing	Volunteers at the event	2–3 • Initial brief at start • Volunteers stationed at clue locations
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Financial requirement

Estimated budget	£50 for prize	Estimates of key budget breakdown	
Event type	Free		
Sponsorship required	No		

- £50 for prizes
- Refreshments for networking (optional)



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, route, and final networking venue (choose accessible locations)
2. Promote via NearYou, email and social media
3. Prepare clues, maps, and an "if lost" envelope with the final location
4. Assign volunteers for route testing and clue stations
5. Arrange prizes and refreshments for the networking session
6. Collect participant details and assign teams
7. Prepare a short welcome briefing and explain event rules



Helpful hints and tips

What works well	• Use 4–6 locations for variety • For coordination use attendee phone numbers • Provide a "if lost" envelope with final location • Randomly assign teams for networking • Include bonus trivia for engagement • End with a social session and prizes
Pitfalls to avoid	• Clues should start easier and get trickier, so avoid starting too difficult

Engineering cinema night



Duration



3 hours

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



An informal social event where attendees gather to watch an engineering-themed film or documentary (e.g., motorsport, aerospace, sustainability, or innovation). The event creates a relaxed environment for networking and discussion while enjoying a film that inspires interest in engineering.



Aim

- Provide an engaging, informal networking opportunity for members and guests
- Spark discussion on engineering topics featured in the film
- Promote IMechE membership and upcoming events in a fun setting



Benefits

- Builds connections among students, graduates, and professionals
- Encourages engagement with IMechE
- Offers a unique, enjoyable way to learn about engineering themes



Format

- Welcome and introductions.
- Screening of the selected film/documentary
- Networking and discussion after the film (optional Q&A or themed trivia)



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event **1–2**

Volunteers at the event **2–3**



Financial requirement

Estimated budget **~£200 to ~£500**

Event type **Free or Low cost**

Sponsorship required **No**

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- ~£200 to £500 to rent a local arthouse type cinema or an auditorium from a local university
- Film license: £50–£70 dependant on film choice



Planning step-by-step

1. Select an engineering-themed film or documentary (ensure licensing if required)
2. Confirm date, venue, and capacity (choose a location with AV facilities)
3. Promote via NearYou, Email, social media, and university channels
4. Prepare a short welcome message and info about IMechE



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Apply for a one-off public screening license from the appropriate film licensing agency before the event
- Consider asking attendees for a small deposit to secure their spot—this helps ensure commitment and covers venue costs if needed
- Provide refreshments to create a relaxed, social atmosphere and encourage networking

Pitfalls to avoid

- Avoid choosing a film that has been recently broadcast or widely available, especially around holiday periods
- Check for major competing events (e.g., sporting fixtures) that could impact attendance

F1 watch party



Duration



3 hours

Aligned with race time

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



An informal social and networking event where attendees gather at a local venue to watch a live Formula 1 race together (or other motorsport). The event provides a relaxed environment for engineers and motorsport enthusiasts to connect, share ideas, and enjoy the excitement of F1 while building professional relationships.



Aim

- Create a fun, engaging networking opportunity for members and guests
- Strengthen community ties among engineers with a shared interest in motorsport
- Promote IMechE membership and upcoming events in an informal setting



Benefits

- Builds connections in a relaxed, social environment
- Encourages engagement with IMechE activities
- Appeals to motorsport fans and broadens event variety



Format

- Welcome and introductions.
- Watch the F1 race live on big screens
- Networking and discussion during breaks and post-race
- Optional short talk or trivia related to motorsport engineering



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event	1–2	Volunteers at the event	2–3
Financial requirement		Estimates of key budget breakdown	
Estimated budget	Free (Venue dependent)	• Potential venue cost	
Event type	Free		
Sponsorship required	No		



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm race date and time; choose a venue with live F1 coverage
2. Liaise with venue for booking and any costs
3. Promote via NearYou, LinkedIn, and local networks
4. Prepare a short welcome message and info about IMechE



Helpful hints and tips

What works well	• Choose a venue with good screens and sound for the race • Promote early to attract motorsport fans and members • Encourage attendees to bring friends and colleagues
Pitfalls to avoid	• Venues without guaranteed live coverage or poor viewing conditions. Suggest confirming booking / attendance with venue

Simulator centre



An engaging evening activity where participants attend a local racing simulator centre or similar.

This event was previously run at The Race Centre which offered 10 fixed seat simulators with large 108” screens. The simulators were linked to enable people to race against each other.

Aim

- Provide a relaxed setting for networking and socialising
- Offer a unique, enjoyable experience that encourages participation
- Foster friendly competition and teamwork

Duration



An evening

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



Benefits

- Builds connections among attendees
- Creates a memorable experience beyond traditional meetings
- Flexible format—can be adapted to various venues and activities



Format

- Welcome and introduction to the activity
- Split participants into groups or sessions (e.g., qualifying rounds)
- Run main challenge or competition (e.g., top performers compete in a final round)
- Conclude with networking and optional refreshments



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event

1

Volunteers at the event

1



Financial requirement

Estimated budget

Low (~£12 per head)

Event type

Paid

Sponsorship required

No

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Initial funding for each person on the event to book session



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, venue, and capacity
2. Book venue and agree costs
3. Promote via NearYou, email, social media, and university channels
4. Prepare welcome message and event format



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Charge a small fee to ensure commitment
- Promote widely—advertising is key
- Offer prizes or recognition for winners

Pitfalls to avoid

- Overcomplicating the format—keep it simple and fun

Annual dinner



A formal evening dinner designed to bring professionals, companies, and members together for networking and celebration. Includes a keynote speaker, entertainment, and optional charity raffle.

Aim

- Strengthen professional networks and organisational presence
- Provide a premium social experience for members and guests
- Engage local companies and stakeholders

Duration



An evening

Scalability



Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



Benefits

- High-profile event that attracts senior professionals
- Encourages collaboration and community building
- Creates a memorable experience for attendees



Format

- Pre-dinner drinks and networking
- Welcome speech
- Three-course dinner
- Keynote speaker or entertainment
- Charity raffle



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event	3–5 • Find venue/catering • Advertise/sell tickets • Arrange entertainment	Volunteers at the event	3–5 • Welcome guests • Liaise with guests/venue
Financial requirement		Estimates of key budget breakdown	
Estimated budget	High (~£5000)	• Budget: Venue, catering, entertainment costs • Funding: Charge for tickets; seek company sponsorship	
Event type	Paid		
Sponsorship required	Yes		



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, venue, and capacity (choose a formal setting)
2. Book venue and catering; agree on costs
3. Secure keynote speaker and entertainment
4. Promote via NearYou, email, social media and local networks
5. Arrange ticketing and sponsorship opportunities
6. Prepare welcome speech and event schedule
7. Organise charity raffle and prizes (optional)
8. Assign volunteers for guest registration and coordination
9. Test AV setup and confirm menu before the event



Helpful hints and tips

What works well	• Secure company sponsorship or table bookings • Offer discounted tickets for volunteers • Make it a black-tie event for added appeal
Pitfalls to avoid	• Underestimating costs—venue and catering can be expensive. • Late promotion—start advertising early • Not confirming entertainment and AV requirements in advance

INSTITUTION COMPETITIONS

Speak Out for Engineering

– Local heat



Duration



~3 hours

Scalability



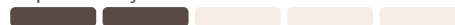
Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



Speak Out for Engineering (SOfe) is an annual presentation competition run by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) Young Members' Network. Established in 1964, its aim is to challenge engineers to communicate effectively about technical subjects. Competitors deliver a 20-minute oral presentation on a mechanical engineering topic, followed by 10 minutes of questions from the judging panel. 90% of marks are awarded for presentation skills and 10% for technical content, so clarity and engagement are key.

[Speak Out for Engineering Entrants - IMechE.](#)



Aim

- Encourage young engineers to develop strong verbal and visual communication skills
- Provide a platform for members to showcase technical knowledge in an engaging way
- Strengthen local networking and involvement with IMechE activities



Benefits

- Improves public speaking and presentation confidence
- Offers recognition and prizes for winners
- Creates networking opportunities with peers and industry professionals
- Pathway to regional and global competition stages



Format

- Welcome and introduction.
- Competitor presentations:
 - 20-minute talk on a mechanical engineering topic
 - 10-minute Q&A with judges
- Judging and scoring (90% presentation, 10% technical content)
- Announcement of winners and networking



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event

3

- Arrange venue
- Advertise event
- Liaise with entrants
- Find judging panel

Volunteers at the event

5

- Judging Panel
- Event Chair
- Person to organise presenters



Financial requirement

Estimated budget

Medium (~£250 venue)

Event type

Free

Sponsorship required

No

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Prize money is issued by the Trustee Boards Awards Committee
- Expense for venue



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, venue, and capacity (ensure AV facilities)
2. Book venue and agree on costs
3. Recruit judges and volunteers
4. Promote via NearYou, email, social media and universities
5. Collect competitor applications
6. Prepare event schedule and judging criteria
7. Arrange refreshments and prizes
8. Test AV setup and presentation equipment before the event



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Start promotion early to attract competitors and audience.
- Brief judges on scoring criteria in advance
- Provide clear instructions to competitors about timing and rules
- Have a contingency plan for technical issues (backup laptop, projector)



Our skills-based engineering education events are more than experiences — they are gateways to the future of our sector.

By connecting young people with real-world engineering challenges, we ignite curiosity, confidence, and career ambition.

These events strengthen the talent pipeline, ensuring our industry remains innovative, resilient, and future-ready.

Most importantly, they empower young people with the skills, networks, and belief to shape the world around them.

Joyce Achampong

Associate Director of Impact, MechE

Design challenge

– Regional heat



Duration



1 day or evening

Scalability



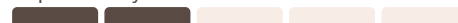
Effort to organise



Financial requirements



Repeatability



The [Design Challenge](#) gives students from universities and university technical colleges (UTCs) a taste of 'real world' engineering, challenging them to design, create, present and run a device to a strict technical specification.

The Challenge is open to teams of 3-6 students from universities or UTCs. Teams in the UK will compete in regional competitions from March to June, leading to a national final for the regional winners, hosted at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' London HQ at the start of the following academic year.



Aim

- Provide engineering students with a practical design and build experience
- Develop problem-solving, teamwork, and project management skills
- Strengthen links between universities and the IMechE network



Benefits

- Hands-on experience in applying engineering principles
- Encourages creativity and innovation in design
- Builds confidence in presenting and defending technical solutions
- Offers recognition and progression to regional and national finals



Format

- Teams of student's design, build, and test a device to meet a specific brief
- Competition day includes:
- Welcome and briefing
 - Team presentations explaining design approach
 - Practical testing of devices against set criteria
 - Judging and scoring based on performance, innovation, and presentation
 - Announcement of winners and networking session



Level of effort to organise

Volunteers before event **3**

Volunteers at the event **5**



Financial requirement

Estimated budget **~£250**

Event type **Free**

Sponsorship required **Yes**

Estimates of key budget breakdown

- Venue Hire and Catering (~£250)
- Universities can host the regional final which may mean costs are covered, other costs could be covered by sponsorship



Planning step-by-step

1. Confirm date, venue, and capacity
2. Book venue and arrange any required equipment
3. Recruit judges and volunteers for setup and scoring
4. Promote via NearYou, email, social media and uni channels
5. Collect team registrations and share design brief and rules
6. Prepare event schedule and judging criteria
7. Arrange refreshments and prizes
8. Test equipment and layout before the event



Helpful hints and tips

What works well

- Brief judges on scoring criteria in advance
- Provide clear instructions and time limits for presentations and testing
- Have contingency plans for technical or equipment issues
- Set up separate areas for posters and the competition. This allows judges and attendees to view posters during lunch without interfering with the setup of the competition space

Formula Student

IMechE Formula Student (FS) is Europe's most established educational engineering competition and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2023, tasking teams to design, build and race a single-seater race car.

Backed by industry and high-profile engineers such as Ross Brawn OBE, the competition aims to develop enterprising and innovative young engineers and encourage more young people to take up a career in engineering, with over 100 university teams taking part every year.

The project usually forms part of a degree-level project and is viewed by the motorsport industry as the standard for engineering graduates to meet, transitioning them from university to the workplace. It is a kite-mark for real-world engineering experience, combining practical engineering experience with soft skills including business planning and project management.



Benefits

- Provides an ideal opportunity for the students to test, demonstrate and improve their capabilities to deliver a complex and integrated product in the demanding environment of a motorsport competitions.



Format

- Teams are tasked to produce a prototype for a single-seat race car for autocross or sprint racing and present it to a hypothetical manufacturing firm. Each team goes through a rigorous testing process, made up of Static and Dynamic events.



Opportunities

- **Volunteer at the event:**
Support the Formula Student competition at Silverstone by assisting with judging, coordination, or team coordination. Sign up via www.imeche.org/fsvolunteer
- **Engage with local teams:**
Connect with nearby universities running Formula Student projects. Offer guidance, mentorship or sponsorship opportunities
- **Run collaborative events:**
Organise lectures or workshops where teams present their design process, share lessons learned, and discuss engineering challenges. This promotes knowledge exchange and strengthens links between students and industry

Railway challenge

The Railway Challenge, organised by our Railway Division, provides a brilliant opportunity for aspiring teams to compete in yet another challenging industry-specific competition, showcasing their skills, expertise, knowledge, and business acumen.

Each annual Challenge cycle kicks-off in October, ending with a final event in late June/early July of the following year.

Teams are to assume that they work for a design consultancy producing a design proposal and a prototype for a small locomotive for a large corporation.

The Challenge is to design and manufacture the prototype of this locomotive and then test this against prototypes manufactured by the other teams.



Benefits

- The Challenge, now in its fifteenth successive year, continues to bring together teams of university students, as well as apprentices and graduates working in industry across the world to test their business knowledge, design ability and technical skills in a live test environment.



Format

- Participants are required to design and manufacture a miniature (10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " inch gauge) railway locomotive in accordance with a set of strict rules and a detailed technical specification. The locomotives will be tested live at the competition weekend, which takes place in June/July at Stapleford Miniature Railway in Leicestershire, where several categories of winners and an overall Railway Challenge champion will be crowned.



Opportunities

• Volunteer at the event:

Support the Railway Challenge competition at Stapleford Miniature Railway by assisting with judging, coordination, or team coordination. Sign up via www.imeche.org/railway-challenge

• Engage with local teams:

Connect with universities, apprentices, and graduate teams preparing for the challenge. Offer guidance, mentorship, or help with sponsorship opportunities

• Run collaborative events:

Organise technical talks or workshops where teams share their design process, testing methods, and lessons learned. This promotes knowledge exchange and strengthens links between students, apprentices and industry

Unmanned Aerial Systems challenge

Launched in 2014, the UAS Challenge is now a highly anticipated event attracting teams from across the UK and around the world.

Teams of undergraduates from all over the world take part in the Challenge. They undertake a full design and build cycle of a UAS with a maximum take off mass of 10kg to undertake specific mission objectives. The system will be required to operate automatically, performing a series of tasks such as area search, navigating waypoints, accurately dropping the Aid Package and returning to base via a defined route. The competition is split into design, development and demonstration stages and culminates with the flying demonstration and business case presentations which contribute to final scoring.



Benefits

- Provides unique opportunities to universities, their teams, and individual participants to gain real-world engineering experience
- Develops skills in design, development and demonstration stages including technical competence, safety, and project management
- Offers exposure to aerospace engineering and flight safety best practices, overseen by industry experts.
- Builds teamwork, time management, and presentation skills essential for future careers



Format

- Starting each October, student teams must design and build an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) with a maximum take off mass of 10kg that will carry out specific mission objectives. Whether a fixed wing aircraft, quadcopter, glider, or other design, each UAS will be required to operate autonomously while navigating waypoints, carry out a simulated aid mission, and return to base via a defined route.
- All teams take part in the final fly-off event in July of the next year, providing a chance to demonstrate the efficiency, manoeuvrability, and sustainability of their UAS and showcase their work in formal presentations.



Opportunities

- **Engage with local teams:**
Connect with universities participating in the challenge. Offer guidance, mentorship, or help with sponsorship opportunities
- **Run collaborative events:**
Organise technical talks or workshops where teams present their UAS design process, mission planning, and lessons learned. This promotes knowledge sharing and strengthens links between students and industry.

Apprentice Automation challenge

The Apprentice Automation Challenge provides a brilliant opportunity for talented apprentices to compete in an innovative design and manufacturing challenge to automate an everyday device.

Organised by the Institution's Manufacturing Industries Division's Young Members Committee, it engages with teams of apprentice engineers to design, develop and build a fully working system that solves a real-world problem.



Benefits

- Apprentice Automation Challenge provides a brilliant opportunity for talented apprentices to compete in an innovative design and manufacturing challenge to automate an everyday device.
- Develops technical skills in electronics, software, mechanical engineering, and manufacturing.
- Enhances project management, teamwork and leadership skills.
- Supports professional development towards EngTech accreditation.
- Offers networking opportunities with industry professionals and exposure for employers.



Format

- All teams submit a report that includes a full design specification, manufacturing instructions, user manual and business case. The Challenge culminates in the Finals at the Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry, where teams can demonstrate their working prototypes and respond to questions from the judging panel.



Opportunities

- **Volunteer at the event:**
Support the Apprentice Automation Challenge final by assisting with judging, coordination, or team coordination. Sign up via www.imeche.org/apprentice-automation-challenge
- **Engage with local teams:**
Connect with apprentices participating in the challenge. Offer guidance, mentorship, or help with sponsorship opportunities
- **Run collaborative events:**
Organise technical talks or workshops where teams present their automation solutions, design process, and lessons learned. This promotes knowledge sharing and strengthens links between apprentices and industry

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