

Events with Role Models

* TechMate Toolkit for gender equality in computing higher education. Please discover actions and resources on <https://ascnet.ie/techmate/>

Preparing Students for Events Involving Industry Role Models

Getting students interested in the upcoming engagement with role models is key for their positive experience within the field of computing. Preparing students for the role model visit is therefore helpful. How to prepare them? Here are some ideas:

- Share bios of role models that include details on their interests, hobbies, families, origin, pets can bring them closer to students.
- Provide details on the company the role models are employed with.
- Link to any video of a role model in action, or an article about the role model in public media, which can directly inspire students.
- Encourage students to write up questions for role models in advance of the event, and/or prepare handouts with sample questions. Sample questions (also available in the [National Girls Collaborative Project Toolkit](#), (page 18):
 - What projects have you found rewarding? Why?
 - What project did you consider difficult? What did you learn from it?
 - How are you creative in your work?
 - What is the salary range in your field?
 - What did you learn in university/school that is useful in your career?
 - What keeps you motivated and excited about your job?
 - Looking back, do you wish you could have done something differently?
 - How does your work impact the world?

Key Check List for the Events with Industry Role Models

- Connect with role models prior to the event in case there are any questions.
- Thank role models for their participating and their contribution towards gender balance in computing.
- Preview any materials that are to be shared with students – PowerPoints, intro statements etc. to ensure they are visually appropriate.
- Share logistics of the event with role models and the students. Meeting role models before the start of the event might be helpful to discuss last minute questions.
- Arrange for a staff member to assist role models throughout the event, where needed, especially to keep track on attendance and to ensure audio/visual technology is functioning as needed.