

## Finding Role Models

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

Ideas on where to find role models include (these are inspired by the [National Girls Collaborative Project Toolkit](#)):

- Thinking of people around. These might be friends, family, or friends of friends, a colleague etc. and letting them know there is a search process for role models taking place.
- There might be relevant events happening in existing collaboration with the relevant institution, where role models are invited, so it is worth keeping an eye on them.
- There might be grants or funds available for projects relevant to role models, and, if there are, it might be straightforward to reach out to industry partners without existing collaboration and offer some remuneration for taking their employee's time for the project.
- Existing faculty members may be partially employed by the industry and could become an excellent role model.
- Staff/presenters at computing/science museums or fairs/exhibitions could be inspirational role models.
- Approaching businesses that the institution has connections to, by connecting with relevant representatives or HR departments.
- Approaching professional networks that promote gender equality in computing, for example CWIT (Connecting Women in Technology Ireland).
- Using private or university social media accounts might be helpful when looking for role models.
- Sometimes role models can be available online at no extra effort. There are projects, such as, for instance, Role Models in pSTEM (link [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYrh8Eh848\\_Ljzfx5BXiE9A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYrh8Eh848_Ljzfx5BXiE9A)) that present with video resources telling stories of local role models.