

Up 4 The Challenge – STEM for Social Impact



Overview:

Up4 The Challenge is a non-profit social enterprise that empowers youth in grades 7–12 to use STEM for social impact through hands-on, equity-centered design programs. Based in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area and Ottawa, we focus on engaging underrepresented youth through partnerships with schools and community organizations. Led by women in STEM with expertise in human-centered design, our programs foster creativity, collaboration, and real-world problem solving.

The placement:

By embracing a human-centered design process, students develop creative solutions to real-world social challenges while discovering how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) can be a powerful force for positive impact. We envision an inclusive culture within STEM where interdisciplinary approaches are used for positive social change. By highlighting the potential for science and technology to better our communities, we anticipate an increase in the diversity of people, perspectives, and ideas in STEM, sparking more innovative and sustainable solutions.

<https://www.up4thechallenge.ca/>

The position:

Students will engage in design research with a specific community to inform our youth programming, supporting diverse youth in applying their lived experiences to develop innovative solutions to a community-based challenge. Through this process, students will critically reflect on barriers to integrating social justice pedagogy in STEM education, including challenges in adopting asset-based approaches to diversity and confronting ideologies of depoliticization in STEM.

The opportunity:

You will assist in delivering STEM-based, human-centered design workshops for youth in grades 7–12. Your role includes supporting workshop facilitation, developing educational materials, and collaborating with community partners to address real-world social issues. This position offers hands-on experience in program delivery, content development, and community engagement, contributing to meaningful social impact through STEM education.

The ideal candidate:

The ideal candidate is a passionate and creative student with an interest in STEM education, social innovation, and youth engagement. They are a strong communicator, comfortable working with diverse groups of students, and thrive in collaborative, community-focused environments. Experience with facilitation, design thinking, or community-based projects is a strong asset.

How to apply:

For information about the application process, go to: <https://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/cel-courses/cel-how-to-apply/>

Application deadline: Wednesday, July 2, 2025

For more information about the course, please visit: <https://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/cel-courses/>

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