

Step up!

Be an anti-sexism STEM ally

Research shows that sexism remains a serious issue in STEM departments. Reflecting on five simple steps can help STEM staff and students become anti-sexism allies and create more inclusive experiences for everybody.

An anti-sexism ally is a person who takes a stand against gender oppression. Allies play a valuable role in helping work towards equality.

Take the five steps!

Assumptions

Challenge myths such as the idea of a maths or science 'brain' – all genders have an equal aptitude for STEM.

Behaviours

Actively listen to and value women's contributions; challenge sexist 'banter' and 'mansplaining'; support women to take leadership roles in class and lab work.

Contacts

Encourage gender-diverse friendships and networking, ensure others are not excluded.

Disclosure

Report sexist behaviour; if someone shares an experience of sexism, listen carefully, show respect and take it seriously, then offer help, if wanted.

Encourage

Encourage your department to create an inclusive ethos, e.g. safe ways for people to share concerns; a clear, public statement about not tolerating sexism; gender bias training for all; regular review of curricula and resources to address gendered assumptions or representations.

Find out more:

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