

Young Strathclyde: Accelerate

Product Design Challenge

22nd to 26th June 2026

Accelerate is a one-week programme, held at the University of Strathclyde, for pupils who have just gone into S5 and S6. It aims to provide a targeted focus on the pupils' chosen area of academic interest, giving them a head start on the road to their chosen career.

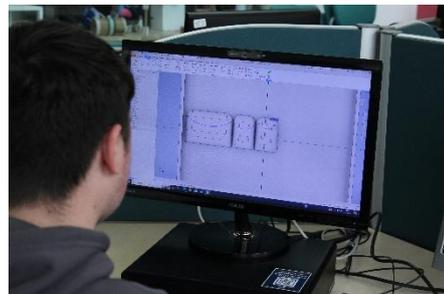
There are ten areas that you can choose from in 2026, depending on your career aspirations:

- **Business**
- **Chemistry**
- **Chemical Engineering**
- **Computer Science**
- **Education**
- **Electronic & Electrical Engineering**
- **Languages & International Communication**
- **Law**
- **Politics**
- **Product Design**

Teams of academic experts have put together week-long Challenges in each of these areas that will allow pupils to find out all about their area of interest and the career opportunities open to them. Led by undergraduate and postgraduate student mentors from the relevant fields, pupils will undertake a variety of group challenges, as well as attending career workshops and getting a chance to see what student life is like.

The Product Design Challenge: Outline

The Department of Design, Manufacturing and Engineering Management (DMEM) at the University of Strathclyde will host the Product Design Challenge in its Studio and Design labs.



Working in teams, alongside current DMEM students, you will be asked to design a new product for the future. During the course of the challenge, you will learn and use a range of design tools, techniques and software including 3D Computer Aided Design to assist you. To visualise your designs, you will use state-of-the-art VR and AR technology and to build the prototype the department has access to 3D printers, 3D scanners, Laser cutting machines and other traditional machinery. At the end of the week, in true “Dragons Den” style, your team will then present your product to our panel of design experts.

Throughout the programme, you will be given advice and instruction on the product design process by students and staff in DMEM. You will also have the chance to learn about the different technologies used in the product design process and how best to market your product.

The whole week will offer you a realistic taste of what it is like to study at University and you will find out about our range of DMEM courses:

- Product Design Engineering
- Manufacturing Engineering with Management
- Sports Design Engineering
- Product Design & Innovation

By allowing you to design and manufacture your own product, this challenge will give you the opportunity to see the role that Engineering plays in the real world.



As part of the programme, our Engineering careers and industry event will allow you to see the future opportunities available to you. You'll learn about the fantastic jobs our students secure with multinational companies like Rolls Royce, Adidas, Jaguar Land Rover, Hasbro Toys and Nike.

If you would like to take part in the Product Design Challenge, you should be studying or planning to study either Higher Maths or Higher Physics.

The Product Design challenge has official accreditation on the SCQF Framework. This means that there will be some assessment on this challenge and, should you pass this, you will gain 10 credits at level 7. Level 7 is the same as Advanced Higher or first year University work.

What previous Product Design participants have said about the programme:

"I believe the product design challenge gives you a deeper, more influential insight to the sector. Improves your overall insight to university life and opens up a whole world of opportunities."

"I found it very engaging and fun while being taught new processes of designing. It allowed me to consider another career to study and the people mentors were chilled and friendly. I have enjoyed my time and wish to return as a student."



"I feel that the programme is an amazing opportunity. It gives high school students an idea of what university is like and how it works. It also helps with social skills and gets people out of their shell. I think that is an amazing programme overall."

"I learned what qualifications I would need for this course and I am now more confident this is what I want to do as a career."

For further information, visit:

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/accessequalityinclusionsservice/wideningaccess/gettingready/accelerate/>

or contact us at accelerate-programme@strath.ac.uk