WOMEN IN STEM
A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Of all scientists employed within research and development (R&D) worldwide, only 28.8% are female (as of 2015). A breakdown of the regional averages is shown below:

- Central and Eastern Europe: 39.5%
- Central Asia: 48.1%
- South and West Asia: 18.5%
- East Asia and the Pacific: 23.4%
- North America and Western Europe: 32.3%
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 31.3%

Between 2017 and 2018, the number of female STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) employees rose from 864,278 to 908,318. The UK is therefore on target to achieve its goal of recruiting 1 million women into STEM careers by 2020.

Despite this increase, when viewed as a percentage the number of women making up the UK’s STEM workforce has fallen. This highlights the need to keep encouraging females to pursue STEM careers.

With leave rates for women in STEM peaking roughly 10 years into their careers, the goal is not just getting women into STEM, it’s keeping them there.

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