Prem Singh Gill:

My name is Prem Singh Gill. My role is, I'm leading the team at Warwick Racing Formula Student, part of the student projects here. Other than that, I actually study mechanical engineering, and we're in my second year. I'm actually involved in Warwick Racing. We build and design a race car from the ground up every single year. We race out at Silverstone. We're also involved in some other projects outside of that, in South Africa, and we do a lot of outreach, and we use this platform to make a difference in the world around us as well.

The student projects constantly involve student from schools, in their work. We get visits all the time. We're also running industry days. We go out to the schools and we present to them. We also run a lot of workshops. Recently, we've had students come and do work experience with us, and we're hoping to organize internships for them in the future.

This is groundbreaking, and I think that what we are doing here, we are trailblazers in what we do. We use that platform to spread our knowledge transfer as well as our technical skills, but including those soft skills, which are just as important for industry. So, working in a diverse team, but being able to tackle those problems in the same way, and listen to everybody's ideas.

And some of the values we represent as well, the respect, the passion, commitment, these are all really key ground stones for us when we're working on the project. So, we inspire the next generation through showing that it's not all about the certificates you have or the school you went to, but it's more about the skills you hold within yourself and the values you represent.

I think the difference between university education and your A Levels and GCSE is that there's far less memorizing and core skills that you're trying to build. You are more focused on your application skills, and that is given to you in a big amount of freedom, and you can work on a range of different projects in your spare time. I work on Warwick Racing, but we've also got the Moto project, and the Sub project, and the train, as well as the robot. So, there's a lot of diversity in terms of the work we are doing, as well as the people we're working with.

But generally, this all reflects the university's values and what we do here. We use this as a platform to help others. The skill set I've built up from the student projects has been pivotal in my career aspirations, and being able to secure placements. This is all done through the likes of people like Dave Cooper, and Malcolm, and Lee-Rose, who help us in the background, and support us, and lay those groundings for us to build upon, and get involved with projects like Warwick Racing.

At the same time, there's so much that supports these projects in terms of, on a business operations side, that we get exposure to. I think through these projects, I've been exposed to those elements more so than I would have ever done with my academic projects.

The advice I would give somebody who wants to go into STEM is probably to think about all the different things they're doing in their spare time, because that's the first area to work out your passion and what drives you. Once you work that out, explore those through your own time. Go talk to companies, go talk to local businesses who can support you in that, and your academic supporters and supervisors.

They'll all be able to encourage you and find those connections, through those roots and through places like here, like Warwick University, or the student projects we're running here. It's really important for you to get stuck in and actually experience that, and understand exactly which area in that field interests you. From there onwards, you'll be able to expand more and finalize, and zoom in a little bit more into exactly what you like.