



We've had feedback from engineers asking for feedback on their zones. Whilst participation certificates are all well and good, they don't evidence the *impact* of public engagement. This report has been compiled by the I'm an Engineer team as a zone summary, containing moderator observations and our web statistics, to provide some meaningful information on your zone.

Health Zone March 2012

The Health Zone had an initial busy week with many questions and comments, which then calmed down in the second week. The engineers in the zone were very engaging with the students. The chats were sometimes very hectic. Several chats had only one or two engineers present facing a large volume of questions from students.

Zone page	Pageviews
Zone homepage	1,886
ASK	808
CHAT	1,445
VOTE	643
List of questions	1,179
Engineers page	553

Number of views of zone pages on the I'm an Engineer site

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
Number of registered students	229	267	1,599
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	85%	83%	-
Number of questions asked	300	614	3,681
Number of questions approved	181	215	1,292
Number of answers given	615	510	3,062
Number of comments	106	62	371
Number of votes	171	239	1,434
Number of live chats	19	14	81
Number of lines of live chat	6,872	4,689	28,131
Number of schools	9	8	49

Key figures from I'm an Engineer March 2012 for the zone, the average of all 6 zones, and the whole event

Popular topics

Popular topics in live chats included intense debate on animal testing (vivisection), gender balance in engineering, the role of nanotechnology in medicine (and in general) and cures for cancer. Students were also interested in career advice for a role in engineering, earnings, lifestyle and the future plans of the engineers.

Popular question topics included nanotechnology ([What is nanotechnology used for in space?](#), [If nanotechnology is supposedly bad for your health, then why use it?](#)), medicine ([Do you think honey could be used as a cure for illnesses? I heard local honey cures hay fever..](#)) and animals ([Do you feel guilty about throwing frozen chickens in turbines?](#), [What are your views on testing drugs on animals?](#)).

The engineers showed excellent engagement with their audience, giving technical as well as humorous answers to questions and encouraging comments. Paige even managed to take part in a chat on her mobile phone after her house was left powerless following a storm the night before.

Question	Pageviews
can you make a time machine	114
Do you feel that both genders are equal in your line of work? Or is there some differentiation? :)	84
How do you fix the 'ingredients' of drugs together?	67
Are you worried about your works enviromental impact? Do you try and reduce your carbon footprint?	63
How long did you study for to reach your level of expertise? And which Uni would you recommend for your individual courses? ☺ x	62
You work with nanoparticles so that you can treat disease, but aren't there worries that using nano technologies can actually be damaging to your health?	62
Do you think if there were cures for lots of diseases/illnesses it could be a problem (eg overpopulated areas, unemployment etc)??	61
how did you get into engineering ?	51

Some of the most viewed questions in the zone. Some questions were tweeted which may have increased the number of pageviews.

Engineer winner: Paige Brown

Her plans for what to spend the prize money on are: *"If I am fortunate to win the monetary reward, I plan to set up an online website that will bring high school students closer to their local engineers and scientists.*



*This website will be a permanent place for **students to ask engineers and scientists questions about science and research.** But even more than that, the website will be a place where scientists should write about their research and their current scientific projects, so that **students can give their input and advice!** You see, many scientists get soo bogged down in their work that they fail to see some of the most obvious and innovative applications of their work. Scientists need the 'out-of-the-box' thinking of high school students and young engineering and science students just as much as these students need scientists to foster their scientific skill sets.*

*In addition, with the money from 'I'm an Engineer, get me Out of Here!' I hope to set up this site and arrange for sponsors to pay for high-school students to visit their local engineers and scientists at their local universities and biotech companies, and even for scientists to visit the students' schools! I think such outreach is incredibly important. **Science education is not a one way street! Scientists need the ideas and advice of young students to give their projects more out-of-the-lab and real-world applications.**"*

Student winner: laceyc, for asking really high quality questions and confidence in engaging the engineers in the chats.

