

Step-by-step guide to volunteering at an Inspiring the Future Role Model Interview event



inspiring the **future**
Aotearoa

How Role Model Interviews work

A Role Model Interview involves students interviewing role models about their role and career pathway one-on-one or two-on-one. The number of students you talk to depends on how many students and role models are involved, and the event length.

Interviews usually involve older students who are exploring career pathways. Interviews might be focused on an industry, sector or education/training pathway.



What you need to know about being a role model

Before the event

- Check the event invitation online. It includes important details about the event, eg, your arrival time, the age of the students, if there's anything they want you to talk about specifically. Contact the event organiser if you need more details.
- Prepare a quick explanation of your job (1 minute) for introductions.
- Look at the questions students might ask, at the end of this guide, so you can prepare answers.

TIP: When preparing, think about both your own story and information about your job and industry **(use the career ideas on Tahatū Career Navigator to help)**.

- Prepare a final piece of advice, which you will be asked for at the end.
- Bring along a “prop” or uniform — something tangible to enhance your talk, eg,
 - something you use at work, eg, a tool
 - an example of your work, or
 - a photo of you doing your mahi; or
 - wear what you would usually wear to work.

TIP: We get a lot of feedback on how important props are at events. If you're stuck on what to bring, ask other role models in the **Inspiring the Future Aotearoa Role Model LinkedIn group.**

Examples of props to represent jobs or sectors

SECTOR	PROP
Finance	Credit cards, money, piggy bank
Engineering and manufacturing	Toolbox
Environment and agriculture	Plants
Hospitality and events management	Apron
Information technology	Computer hardware
Law	Gavel
Marketing, advertising and public relations	Products, storyboards, media release in a publication
Social services	Teddy bear
Transport and logistics	Toy train/car/ aeroplane

The main event

Follow the arrival instructions and time the organiser gives you.

Introduction

- The event host will ask you and other role models to introduce yourselves and tell students your job title, with a quick explanation of what you do.

Activity

- You will be matched with one or two students, who will interview you about your job and career pathway for 10 minutes.
- You will then be interviewed by the next student/s, and so on.
- At the end of the event, the host will ask role models to share a final piece of advice with all students.

Questions students might ask

- What are you responsible for in your job?
- What does a typical day/week look like for you?
- What does your organisation do?
- What is your favourite thing and most challenging thing about your role?
- How did you get into this job/career?
- How does your job and organisation contribute to the community?

- What do you value that aligns with your work? (**How to work out your values**)
- How does your job align with the rest of your life? (For example, does it allow you to pursue other interests, or spend time with your family/friends?)
- What are the pathways (education/training/experience) into this job? Do you need a qualification?
- What technical skills are important for this job?
- What employability skills (soft skills) are important for this job? (**What are employability skills?**)
- What subjects at school are helpful for this job?
- What does the job market for this industry look like in the future?
- What can I do now to prepare me for this kind of career?
- Do you have any career or learning-related advice for me at my age?

TIP: Look up the average pay for your job before the event to answer pay-related questions. **Tahatū Career Navigator** has pay data for over 800 careers.

Advice and support

For advice and support from other role models, join the **Inspiring the Future Aotearoa Role Models LinkedIn group**.

Or contact the team behind Inspiring the Future at the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC).

Email: inspiringthefuture@tec.govt.nz

Phone: 0800 601 301



**Tertiary Education
Commission**

Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua

 @InspiringtheFutureNZ

 inspiringthefuture@tec.govt.nz

 Inspiring the Future Aotearoa

 0800 601 301

 inspiringthefuture.org.nz