

## Who was on the Black Sea MAP expedition?

Aaron  
Sidhu -  
STEM scholar



## Why did you apply to be involved in Black Sea MAP?

I've always been eager to explore new things and this project gave me the chance not only to learn something completely new and unique, but also to meet some fantastic people along the way.

## What did your role involve as a Black Sea MAP STEM Scholar?

I went aboard the Stril Explorer Research Vessel in the Black Sea gathering research to aid my scientific research leading to a report. I designed and created a scientific poster explaining my project. I learnt how to analyse real-life maritime data in many different forms including: core extractions, sub-bottom profiling, acoustic signals and many more.



## What skills did you use or improve?

My ability to research things independently, work on my own as well as in a team when required, and within a given timeframe to a high standard.

As well as all of this, we were expected to give regular presentations explaining our work which not only helped us clarify our findings effectively but also increased my confidence to speak in public.

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## What was a highlight for you of Black Sea MAP?

Going to Bulgaria with a fantastic group and being aboard the Stril Explorer for 5 days, learning about the engineering involved in such a large project. And meeting Brian (the ROV pilot).

## Which subjects did you study at school?

Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology.

## What are you doing now/hope to do next?

I'm currently at Cardiff University studying Mechanical Engineering, hoping to do a Master's degree.

## Do you have a job you think you would like to do in the future?

Become a Chartered Engineer in the Navy.

## Were there any specific influences or motivations that led you to that job idea?

Being aboard the Stril Explorer and experiencing the engineering involved in the engines, propellers and ROVs especially.

## What advice would you give a younger student?

I would highly recommend going into STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects because they're the most challenging and the most rewarding. They can be difficult, but that just means there's always so much more to explore and learn.