

**WE-Bridge-Program@UU: Women in Electronics Bridge Program @
Ulster University
Essay Brief**

Barriers to STEM education faced by girls at school in Northern Ireland

Ulster University researchers are investigating why many **girls at school in Northern Ireland** do not continue to study **STEM subjects**. In this essay, please describe and explain what you think the barriers (real and/or perceived) to studying STEM subjects are for girls at post-primary schools in NI.

Some aspects you may wish to consider are:

- your personal experience;
- experience of your siblings/other family members, your friends, other pupils;
- similarities and/or differences in barriers (real and/or perceived) between genders;
- similarities and/or differences in barriers (real and/or perceived) between your school and other schools;
- influences in school and outside school.

The research team is interested in all ideas and is interested in ideas from all pupils (all genders). By identifying barriers, the research team can then begin to consider solutions. There are no right or wrong answers.

Criteria for judging the essays are:

- offering relevant insights to the essay topic **40%**
- using convincing, authentic, reliable evidence to support points you make **30%**
- the essay uses clear language with a structured approach (introduction, middle and end). Utilises assistive technologies to enhance spelling, grammar and syntax e.g. read and write gold or immersive reader **30%**