**Women in Engineering Survey 2024**

**Participant Information Leaflet**

1. **What is this survey about?**

The survey is intended to assess the experiences of women who have graduated with a degree in engineering, have continued to work in engineering, and/or those who have left a career in engineering.

1. **Why are we conducting this survey?**

The aim of the survey is to understand women’s experiences working in engineering, the issues they may or may not face in the workplace, and to assess whether and why they may consider leaving a career in engineering. With the findings of the survey, we hope to be able to identify how to increase retention rates of women in engineering.

1. **Why have you been invited to take part?**

The survey is intended for women who have worked, studied, or continue to work, in engineering in Ireland.

1. **What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?**

The survey and focus groups that follow will inform industry stakeholders on the specific experiences of women working in engineering and those who have decided to leave, and how these industries could change and adapt to foster better workplace experiences for women. By participating in this survey your views can be included.

1. **What are the risks of taking part in this research study?**

Participation in this survey poses minimal risks to information security which are mitigated by collecting data anonymously, maintaining approved controls over access to the data set, publishing findings only in the aggregate. This questionnaire will ask some questions related to hostile work environments and sexism. In the event that this survey raises psychological or emotional responses for you, external support services are available such as Aware and the Samaritans.

1. **How will you find out what happens with this project?**

Findings from this survey will be documented in publications at a later stage. If you have any question about the survey, require it in another format, or would like to stay informed on the future of the research project and the research findings, contact: [deirdre.brennan3@ucdconnect.ie](mailto:deirdre.brennan3@ucdconnect.ie)

1. **Data Protection**

The legal basis under which we are processing your information is based on your consent and that it is in the public interest.

1. **How will your data be used?**

Anonymous data collected from this survey will be used to assess experiences relevant to careers in engineering. Data from the survey will identify issues to be discussed in online focus groups with women who work in engineering, or previously worked in engineering, at a later stage. Once the survey data has been fully analysed, the results will be used as part of research publications and, it is hoped, it will be presented to interested stakeholders, including employers, professional bodies and government.

1. **What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?**

Participation in this study will involve answering a series of questions about your experience as a former or current employee, and graduate, of engineering. Completing the survey will take approximately 8 minutes.

1. **How will your privacy be protected?**

All responses to this survey will be collected through an anonymous link – we will not be able to identify individual respondents. All data collected in this survey will be held securely, with only aggregate results being retained with the intent to publish findings.

1. **Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from the survey?**

Participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. You may opt out of this survey at any stage. Simply close this browser window to exit the survey. Your data will not be used.

After submitting the survey, however, it is not possible to withdraw your data entry. As the survey is conducted anonymously, we are unable to identify your answers in order to withdraw your data. As a result, your rights under the GDPR regulations in relation to: Right of access (article 15), Right to data portability (article 20), Right to rectification and erasure (articles 16, 17 and 19) and Right to object and restriction of processing (articles 18,19 and 21) cannot be exercised.

1. **Who do I contact if I have further questions on data protection?**

If you have any further questions, please contact the UCD Data Protection Officer [gdpr@ucd.ie](mailto:gdpr@ucd.ie)

1. **The Women in Engineering Survey is conducted by the research team:**

Prof Aoife Ahern

Assoc Prof Aideen Quilty

Dr Deirdre Brennan

If you have any questions in regard to the survey, or the Smurfit Kappa Newman Fellowship on Women in STEM, please contact Deirdre Brennan [deirdre.brennan3@ucdconnect.ie](mailto:deirdre.brennan3@ucdconnect.ie)