

**University of Stirling – Impact for Access Research**

***So you want to be… in the professions?***

**What is this study about?**

We are Amy McDermott and Megan McCulloch, two researchers at the University of Stirling. We are conducting research as part of a project that the University of Stirling is doing with the Scottish Funding Council; an initiative called Impact for Access. The research aims to find out why more men study computing, maths and sport at university than women do, and why more women than men study nursing, social work and primary teaching. It is hoped that this will identify how the Scottish university sector can create more ways for universities to help change these current trends. We want to find out what is working already, and what else can be done.

**Why have we asked you to take part?**

As a teacher in one of our partner schools, we want to hear your opinions on how you view your pupils’ perceptions of the relationship between gender and subject choice. In order to do this, we will ask you questions related to the following areas:

* Do you believe that your students make decisions based on gender norms?
* If so, who do you think are key influencers in this decision? Parents/peer groups/teachers/social norms?
* Is this a prominent aspect in young people’s decisions over employment/college/university?
* Do you think more/less should be done in this area? What?

**What does taking part involve?**

We would like you to take part in this focus group at the school you work in.

* Your name will not be included in any of the research
* If you do not feel comfortable answering any of the questions we will be happy to move on
* You can stop taking part at any time without giving a reason. We are happy to stop the discussion at any time you choose
* If you agree, we would like to record your answers. The recordings will be used by the researcher to analyse the responses.

**What will happen to your answers?**

All of our recordings will be stored securely, and will be destroyed following completion of the research findings and report. The information you give us will not be given to anyone else, and only the research findings will be available to view by others.

The only reason we would pass on information that you provide would be if anything you tell us suggests that you or someone else is at risk of harm. If we were going to this, we would discuss this with you first.

At the end of the research, a written report will be submitted to the Scottish Funding Council and will be published as part of the Impact for Access initiative. The report written about our research will be published by the Scottish Funding Council, and will be available to read by universities across Scotland. The report will be used to help inform other universities, creating best practice across Scotland. The research findings will also be discussed at a dissemination conference. This will happen in Summer 2016, and we would be happy to send you a summary of the conclusions we have reached prior to that should it be of interest to you.

**What if you have any further questions?**

If you have any further questions or concerns about the research, then please contact:

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If you would like to speak to someone independent from the research, then please contact:

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