



UK Electronics
Skills Foundation

Girls into Electronics 2026

Inspiring the next generation of female Electronics Engineers

- 586 girls participated
- 15 events held at Partner Universities nationwide
- 94% rated the events 'Good' or 'Excellent'





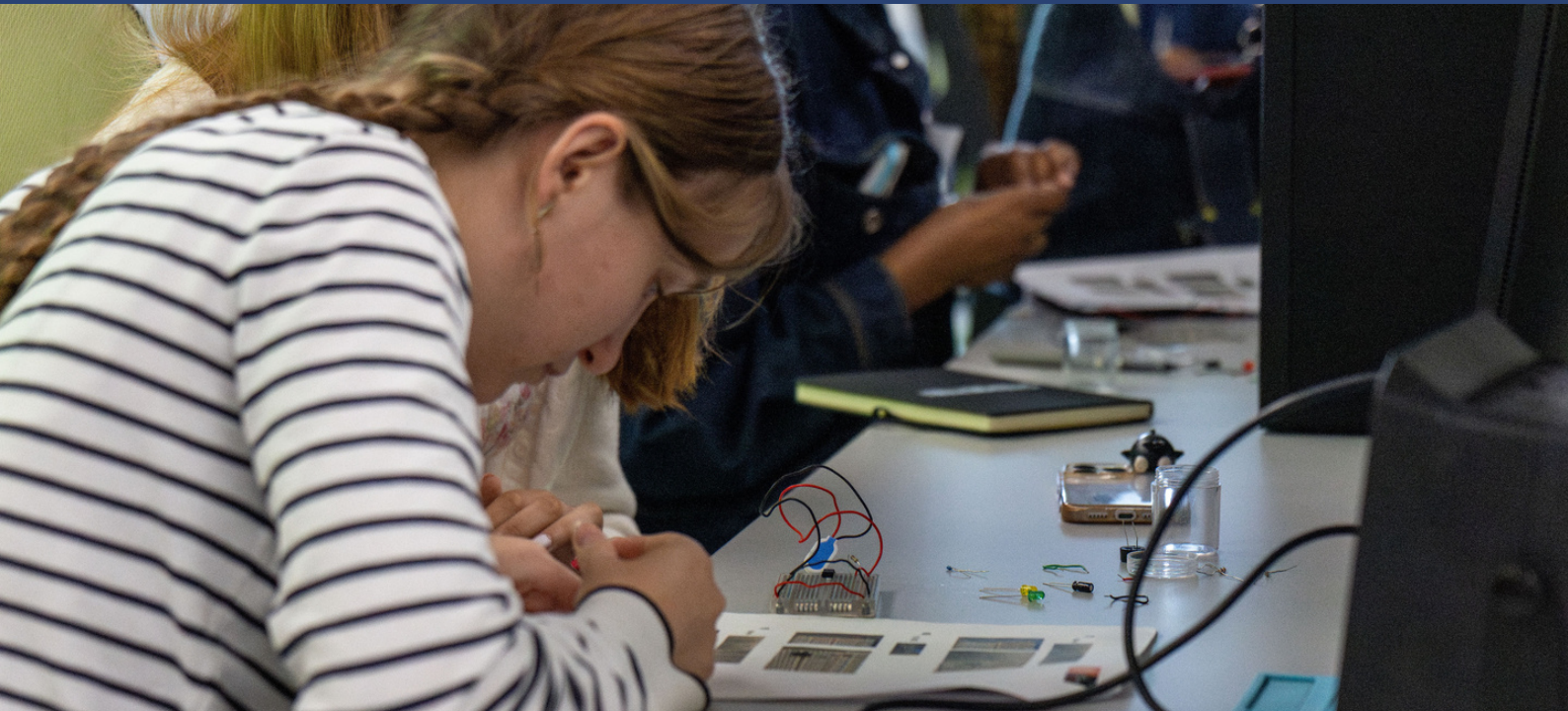
“It's definitely worth signing up to if you're interested in engineering or technology, it's a really inspiring and insightful event.”

Girls into Electronics participant at University of Strathclyde



“The enthusiasm, curiosity, and determination shown throughout the day were inspiring. Seeing young people engage with electronics through practical, hands-on learning is a reminder of how important these opportunities are in helping to build confidence and spark interest in engineering careers.”

Naseem M. Ramli, Senior Lecturer in Engineering Education at King's College London



UKESF Girls into Electronics 2026 was attended by 586 aspiring engineers, aged 14-17, from across the UK.

The programme was kindly sponsored by Apple and delivered with the support of our UKESF Partner Universities.

In total, 586 girls and 70 teachers from 133 schools participated in the one-day events, which took place at 15 universities nationwide.

Since *Girls into Electronics* was launched in 2022, more than 2,000 female students from approximately 352 different schools have engaged in the programme, getting hands-on with Electronics and hearing first-hand the inspiring experiences of women in the industry.

Among survey respondents,

- **99% of participants felt the event helped them better understand what Electronics is and how it is used in the real world**
- **78% of participants reported increased interest in technology, engineering or Electronics after the day**
- **94% of participants rated the *Girls into Electronics* day as ‘Good’ or ‘Excellent’**

The Programme

A series of one-day *Girls into Electronics* events showcased the many exciting opportunities of studying and working in the field of Electronics. At the events participants were given the opportunity to:

Hear a sample lecture from a senior female academic

The subject of the lecture varied from university to university, but some examples included, Sustainability with Electronics, and Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and Physiological Signal Processing for Brain-Computer Interfaces.

Experiences of students and engineers

Participants had the opportunity to hear from females studying and working in the field of electronics: UKESF scholars - and other students - currently studying at the host university, graduated UKESF Scheme alumni, lecturers and engineers from Apple. After the talks, there was a chance for a Q&A session.

A tour of the university department

The students were able to learn more about the host university, their labs and research facilities, and the cutting-edge work of the researchers and academics.

An introduction to microcontrollers

The students participated in a 'hands on' session which gave them an introduction to microcontrollers using the Grove Beginner Kit for Arduino, which they were able to take home with them.

Following the event

The UKESF are keeping in touch with the participants, and their schools, to offer more support and encouragement about careers and study in electronics. Immediately following the event, the UKESF shared a number of additional resources with the participants, to ensure they could continue to develop their interest in electronics, as well as make the most of the Grove beginner kit for Arduino, at home.

Why Girls into Electronics is Important

The UK Electronics Skills Foundation (UKESF) launched *Girls into Electronics* to inspire female students (aged 14-17), from diverse backgrounds, to consider a career in the Electronics sector.

In 2025, 4,215 UK students accepted a place on an Electrical and Electronics Engineering degree, of which just 540 were women. Although we are delighted to have seen significant increase in the number of women pursuing the subject over the last 5 years, the challenge remains that there is still a gender imbalance in our sector, where demand for Electronics and Semiconductor Engineers exceeds supply.

Through initiatives like *Girls into Electronics*, the UKESF hopes to remove barriers to access, ensuring that young women aspiring to become engineers have the opportunity to do what they love and contribute positively to an industry that plays an increasingly vital role in everyday life.

The programme was developed based on best practice interventions to increase girls' aspirations for engineering and technology careers published by Engineering UK. *Girls into Electronics* is just part of the UKESF's wider strategy to address the gender imbalance in the Electronics sector.



“The most rewarding aspects of being involved in this programme is seeing how it has grown over the years. What started as an opportunity to introduce more young women to electronics has become a well-established event that continues to open doors, challenge perceptions, and help participants see themselves pursuing future study and careers in engineering and technology.”

Kate Sugden, Deputy Dean, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Aston University

Participant Feedback

- 99% of participants felt the event helped them better understand what Electronics is and how it is used in the real world
- 91% enjoyed the hands-on activity, and 48% said it was the part that most changed how they thought about Electronics or technology
- 94% of participants rated the *Girls into Electronics* day as 'Good' or 'Excellent'
- 78% reported increased interest in technology, engineering or Electronics after the day



“It's really fun! It's so interesting to learn the different areas and applications of science and technology that I've not known much about before, it's so amazing!”

Girls into Electronics
participant at University of Cambridge

“This event really helped me understand the application of electronics and engineering in the real world and how it can help solve real world problems.”

Girls into Electronics
participant at University of Bath

Programme Reach

- Pupils came from 133 different schools, 18 of which the UKESF had not previously engaged with. These schools will receive follow up support from the UKESF
- 36% of schools were from areas with lower levels of university participation
- Approximately 71% of pupils are studying at KS4/S4, and 24% KS5/S5



“An exceptionally enriching experience, this event is designed to broaden your horizons. Even if engineering isn't in your future, the insights you'll gain will empower you to make more confident, informed choices.”

Girls into Electronics
participant at University of Cambridge

Where next for Girls into Electronics?

A unique and impactful approach to highlighting opportunities in Electronics

This marks the fourth year that, with the support of Apple, the UKESF and our Partner Universities have delivered *Girls into Electronics* to give curious and enthusiastic 14-17 year olds an in-depth insight into what a career in Electronics might look like for them.

Year-on-year, the number of young people participating in the course has increased, demonstrating the value of practical, hands-on experiences. It also highlights the enthusiasm that aspiring engineers have for the opportunity to hear directly from professionals working in the industry, and the importance of meeting other students with a passion for STEM.

Girls into Electronics is an important stepping stone in the UKESF's integrated schools programme, and previous participants have gone on to become Semiconductor Talent Award holders and UKESF Scholarship recipients, as well as advocates for the industry through undertaking schools outreach.

Apple Mentorship Program for Girls into Electronics participants

The Apple Mentorship Program will support 20 UKESF *Girls into Electronics* participants who will be in Year 12 or Year 13 during the 2026/27 academic year. Each student has been paired with a mentor from Apple's Hardware Technology engineering team. The initial mentoring programme will run for two months, beginning in September 2026.

Beyond 2026

In 2026 we worked with our university partners to offer more spaces to aspiring engineers than ever before, making it the largest *Girls into Electronics* programme to date. Looking ahead to 2027, we hope to continue our partnership with Apple for a fifth year, and build on the success of this year's programme.

With thanks to our sponsor



And our university partners



IMPERIAL





**UK Electronics
Skills Foundation**



UK Electronics Skills Foundation

We are the voice for skills in the Electronics industry. Through engagement - with schools, universities and industry - it is our mission to encourage more young people to study electronics and to pursue careers in the sector to ensure it thrives. To date, we have worked with more than 100 employers from across the industry, over 850 schools and we have partnerships with 30 of the UK's leading universities.

ukesf.org
info@ukesf.org
01285 862381

Office 24
Watermoor Point
Cirencester
GL7 1LF

