

MACS Athena SWAN Newsletter

Issue 3 – March 2022

Welcome to the relaunch of the *MACS Athena SWAN Newsletter!* We plan to produce a monthly edition of the newsletter during semester time. The Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network) Charter was established in 2005 with the aim of “*Encouraging and recognising commitment to advancing gender equality*” within STEMM subjects, i.e. science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine:

<https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/equality-charters/athena-swan-charter>

The School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences (MACS) achieved the Athena SWAN Bronze Award in October 2015. At the end of 2018, MACS applied for the Silver Award. While “*improved gender equality in relation to staff*” was recognized by the panel, limited impact in relation to students was noted as an area for improvement. However, it should also be noted that the **Women@CS** initiative was highlighted as being “*positive and shows great potential.*”

While we did not achieve the Silver Award, our Bronze Award was renewed in 2019, which was a significant team achievement. We would like to thank everyone who has worked hard to get us to this point. So going forward, we plan to advance the Athena SWAN agenda across the whole School - both staff and students - with the aim of achieving a Silver Award next time. To this end, we have recruited our School Officers – Luci Meechan (AMS), Roger Benoit (CS), Lucy Welford (Maths) - to be part of the School’s Athena SWAN Self-Assessment Team (SAT). In addition, we are currently recruiting PGT and MSc representatives for the SAT.

News

- On 8 March, **Beatrice Pelloni** will give a talk entitled “*A mathematical and personal journey in the world of PDEs.*” This event is to celebrate **International Woman’s Day** and is hosted by the Queen Mary University of London. To attend the talk virtually, you can register via:
- <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/maths/news-and-events/events-items/women-in-maths-event.html>
- MACS will be initiating an **Athena Swan Summer Undergraduate Bursary Scheme** this summer. The aim of the scheme will be to help improve gender equality in our research communities. Bursaries will be worth £1000 and paid directly to the project student. Details of the application process will be circulated shortly.
- **Women@CS** plans to start up again this semester with a coffee and cake welcome meeting for students (dates to be confirmed). We plan to have monthly meetings and a good variety of fun outing and activity events. If anyone would like to join us or be involved with **Women@CS** then please contact Tessa Berg [t.berg@hw.ac.uk].
- **Watt Women in STEM** is a society that promotes and supports woman studying STEM subjects at Heriot-Watt. More details of their activities and how to get involved can be found via the following link:

<https://www.hwunion.com/societies/wattwomen/>

If you have suggestions or questions related to Athena SWAN, or an event that you would like to advertise, then please send them to us via athena-macs@hw.ac.uk. We took over the coordination of the MACS Athena SWAN activities at the end of 2021. We would like to thank Damian Clancy, the previous coordinator, for all his hard work, advice and guidance.

Audrey Repetti and Andrew Ireland

MACS Athena Swan Coordinators

MACS Athena SWAN Coordinators: Audrey Repetti (a.repetti@hw.ac.uk) and Andrew Ireland (a.ireland@hw.ac.uk)

MACS Equality Charter website: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/schools/mathematical-computer-sciences/about/athena-swan.htm>