

# MACS Athena SWAN Newsletter

Issue 4 – September 2022

Welcome to the first issue of the *MACS Athena SWAN Newsletter for 2022-23!* 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. The Athena SWAN agenda has grown overtime to promote equality in general.

## Athena Swan Summer Undergraduate Bursary Scheme

The aim of the Athena Swan Summer Undergraduate Bursary scheme is to help improve gender equality across our three disciplines. It ran for the first time over the summer with two recipients – Claudia Hemsley and Rebekah Tong, both now in their third year of their Computer Science studies:

- Claudia worked with Dr Tessa Berg on scheduling and promotional materials for the ‘Women in CS’ group. Posters, advertising the group, are now visible around the Earl Mountbatten and GRID buildings. Furthermore, promotional leaflets were handed out at the Fresher’s Fair. Claudia also spoke at the Welcome Week presentation to encourage new female students to get involved in the group sessions.
- Rebekah worked with Dr Kathrin Stark on outreach materials to encourage girls into computing science. She created a card game where teenagers can learn about the concepts of classes and objects in object-oriented programming. The game is mainly targeted towards female secondary school pupils studying computing, but the game is just as fun and educational for anyone interested in learning how to code. The game is currently in the testing phase involving participants of various ages and knowledge levels. The main aim of this project is to show girls that computer science is a subject for everyone, and that learning can be fun!

*“Both interns have worked very hard over the summer and have produced some very impressive outputs. Whilst work is still ongoing, it is admirable how the students have taken ownership of their individual projects. It has been a pleasure working with both Rebekah and Claudia.”*

**Tessa and Kathrin**

The next call for the *Athena Swan Summer Undergraduate Bursary Scheme* proposals will be in early January 2023. In the meantime, please contact [athena-macs@hw.ac.uk](mailto:athena-macs@hw.ac.uk) if you would like advice and guidance about a potential project proposal that you have in mind.

## Women in CS

The first meeting of Women@CS takes place on **Wednesday 21 September at 2pm** in Earl Mountbatten (EM) building – room EM 1.82; all students and staff welcome! We will be running an Ada Lovelace Day celebration in October – please look out for the adverts.

## Like to get involved?

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](mailto:athena-macs@hw.ac.uk). In addition, if you would like to be part of the MACS Athena SWAN team (i.e. officially known as the SAT (Self-Assessment Team)) then please do get in touch.

*Audrey Repetti and Andrew Ireland*  
**MACS Athena Swan Coordinators**