



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 STEM subjects, i.e., science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Athena SWAN agenda has grown overtime to promote equality in general. Scan the QR code opposite for more background about Athena SWAN at Heriot-Watt, including guidance and resources.



## 1. Congratulations to Dr Emma Coutts and the Maths Gym Team!



Huge congratulations go to Dr Emma Coutts, Director of Heriot-Watt's Maths Gym, for being awarded the **'The UK and Ireland Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Statistics Support'** on 7 September 2023.

This internationally recognised award celebrates the achievements of practitioners working in mathematics and statistics support across the UK and Ireland, as well as colleagues from overseas who are members of the professional networks associated with the award [Sigma Network, Scottish Maths Support Network, Irish Mathematics Learning Support Network <https://www.sigma-network.ac.uk/>].

Emma received this award in recognition of the outstanding work that she and her global Maths Gym Team have done over the last three years to establish a *truly global mathematics and statistics support service for Heriot-Watt students*, at all levels of study, who use mathematics or statistics in their work.

Many congratulations Emma and Maths Gym Team!



HW MATH GYM

[www.mathsgym.hw.ac.uk](http://www.mathsgym.hw.ac.uk)

Canvas:

'V11MA Maths Gym'

[mathsgym@hw.ac.uk](mailto:mathsgym@hw.ac.uk)



The Maths Gym is a cross-campus initiative aimed at supporting all HW students, from any subject, to strengthen their mathematical or statistical skills and gain confidence in applying these skills. We provide support through a variety of activities including drop-in sessions, one-to-one appointments, workshops and self-study materials.

The Maths Gym has local support in Edinburgh, Dubai and Malaysia as well as online support for students from all campuses and distance learning programmes. The wonderful team of staff and teaching assistants is friendly, approachable and knowledgeable with backgrounds in maths, actuarial science, computer science, physics and engineering.

***'The maths gym is a really supportive environment for anyone to go for help with maths or to study with others studying similar subjects. I was very close to dropping out and I am now looking forward to continuing my degree with the maths gym support alongside.'*** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Actuarial Maths Student.

Students can be signposted to our support if they want to brush up on basic skills or need help to understand new material. We aim to help every student achieve their maths or stats-based goals, whatever they are, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need more information or would like to collaborate on a student support initiative.





## 2. PiFORUM 2023 – Report

On 7<sup>th</sup> September, the Piscopia Initiative held their annual PiFORUM event at the University of Birmingham. There were over 60 attendees from undergraduate to post-doc level in mathematics from 20 universities. There were research talks, a career panel, a ‘challenges in academia’ workshop, a poster session and finally a mindful Spirograph session. We also had prizes for the best talks and posters.

This was my last event organising as a Co-Lead of the Piscopia Initiative, and I’m looking forward to hearing what comes next for Piscopia. If you’d like to get involved, please visit our website:

<https://piscopia.co.uk/>



### Code Clinic

get help with programming questions  
Mon 12:00-13:00  
Tue 14:00-15:00  
in GRID Collaborate 2 or on Teams  
or email  
[code-clinic@macs.hw.ac.uk](mailto:code-clinic@macs.hw.ac.uk)



Teams: [CodeClinic](#)



The Department of Computer Science is providing additional support for coding through the "Code Clinic": drop-in sessions, where students can ask a helper (typically a 4th Year student), about coding in general. Students can come with problems that they have encountered to help you over these hurdles.



## MACS Staff Coffee/Tea Mornings

*10am every Monday and Thursday in the  
MACS Common Room*



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 (a.k.a. the Self-Assessment Team (SAT)) then please do get in touch.



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

