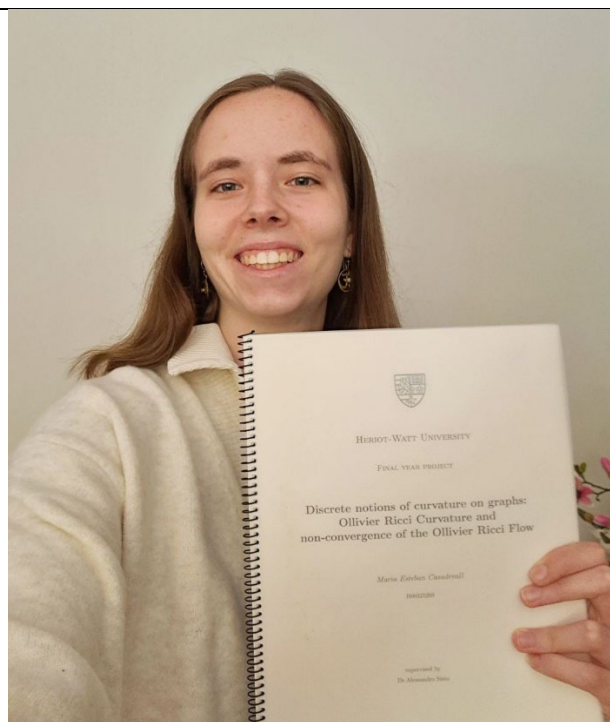


The Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network) Charter was established in 2005 with the aim of “Encouraging and recognising commitment to advancing gender equality” within STEM subjects, i.e., science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Athena SWAN agenda has grown overtime to promote equality in general. Scan the QR code opposite for more background about Athena SWAN at Heriot-Watt, including guidance and resources.



## 1. MACS Prize Winning Mathematician - Maria Esteban



**Mathematics Today**, the bi-monthly journal of the UK Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) published in December 2024 an article (page 158 <https://mathematicstoday.ima.org.uk>) on the fourth annual *Celebration of Mathematics Projects*. This competition, open to UK students, awarded the second place to Maria Esteban, a former UG HW student, for her talk on *Discrete Notions of Curvature on Graphs: Ollivier-Ricci Curvature and Non-Convergence of the Ollivier-Ricci Flow*. Maria, who graduated in Summer 2024, did her project under the supervision of Alessandro Sisto, and published an article associated with her project, given page 182-184 in the same IMA journal. A recording of an online talk she gave in December 2024 at an IMA event is available here: <https://youtu.be/uu1fveAdtQ4>

QR-code for the YouTube video:



QR code for the IMA journal:



## 2. Diving into Math with Emmy Noether

### *Diving into Math with Emmy Noether*

*A theatre performance by portraittheater Vienna in co-operation with Freie Universität Berlin*

**COMING TO MACS EDINBURGH IN MARCH:**

**Date and Venue TO BE CONFIRMED**

[www.portraittheater.net](http://www.portraittheater.net)

**Director:** Sandra Schüddekopf

**Actress:** Anita Zieher

**Scientific board:**

Mechthild Koreuber & David E. Rowe

**Duration:** approx. 65 minutes

**About the play:** Emmy Noether (1882-1935) was one of the most influential mathematicians of the last century. Her works and teachings left a lasting mark on modern algebra, opening new avenues for a modern structural perspective in mathematics. Noether began her studies at a time when women were only beginning to break



down the barriers that prevented them from entering the doors of German universities. She eventually overcame even stronger resistance when she applied for the right to teach at a German university. It took her four years before she acquired that certification (Habilitation) in Göttingen on June 4, 1919, after submitting a thesis in which she solved one of the central problems in Einstein's general theory of relativity. To celebrate the centenary of this event and the career of a unique personality in the history of mathematics, the ensemble Portraittheater Vienna produced a biographical play, directed by Sandra Schüddekopf and starring Anita Zieher as Emmy. It opened on June 4, 2019 at the Freie Universität Berlin. Afterwards the play has been performed with great success at several different universities throughout Germany as well as the Theater Drachengasse in Vienna under the title "Mathematische Spaziergänge mit Emmy Noether". Based on historical documents and events, the script was written by Sandra Schüddekopf and Anita Zieher in cooperation with the historians Mechthild Koreuber and David E. Rowe. "Diving into Math with Emmy Noether," the English-language variant, will be available for performances in other European countries as of 2021, and will go on tour in North America during the spring of 2022. Financial support for the original production was provided by three universities in Berlin (Freie Universität, Humboldt-Universität, Technische Universität), and four other German universities (Erlangen-Nürnberg, Göttingen, Mainz, and Bielefeld).



**This event is sponsored by the International Centre for Mathematical Sciences**

## 3. Athena SWAN Summer Undergraduate Bursary Scheme 2025

The aim of the MACS Athena SWAN Summer Undergraduate Bursary Scheme is to improve gender equality across our disciplines, and more broadly address diversity, equality and inclusion (EDI) issues.

- *Any project that funds a student from an under-represented group meets this criteria.*
- *Likewise, a project topic that directly addresses EDI issues also meets this criteria.*

For Summer 2025 MACS **Dubai** will offer three bursaries and MACS **Edinburgh** will offer four bursaries. MACS **Malaysia** will also join the Bursary Scheme this summer and will offer one bursary. A Dubai bursary is worth 4500 AED while an Edinburgh bursary is worth 1000 GBP. The bursary in Malaysia will be worth 5500 MYR. Project ideas can come from students and/or academic staff from across the School. A project proposal, however, must be submitted by an academic member of staff that is willing to act as the project supervisor. You can access the application form via the QR Code or the following link:



**Summer 2025**

<https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/schools/doc/macs/AthenaSwan/MACSAthenaSWANUGSummerBursaryScheme2025ApplicationForm.docx>

Note that the bursaries are not large. By way of guidance, 1000 GBP is roughly equivalent to what the university would pay a *Student Ambassador* for 100-hours of their time. The duration of a project is therefore relatively flexible, e.g., it could be condensed into a few weeks or spread out across the summer months. You will find guidance included with the application form.

Reports on last summer's Bursary Projects can be found in the October 2024 issue of the Newsletter (Issue 22), which can be found on the Student and Staff SharePoint pages (see item 5 below for links and QR Codes).

Applications should be sent to [athena-macs@hw.ac.uk](mailto:athena-macs@hw.ac.uk) by NOON (BST) on Friday 4 April 2025 (week 12).





## 4. A Women@CS event for February!

**HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY** **Athena SWAN**

# WOMEN@CS 24HR HACKATHON DIAGEO

**£250**  
**£150**  
**£100**

**REGISTER!**

Join us for an action-packed 24-hour hackathon where teams of 5 will collaborate, code, and innovate! Sponsored by Diageo's Women in Technology Group and Athena Swan, this event features inspiring talks on career journeys, **networking opportunities** with industry professionals, and the chance to **win prizes**. Fuel your creativity with **pizza** and showcase your skills in this unmissable coding adventure!

Herriot-Watt | Robotarium  
8<sup>th</sup> Feb  
10:30am

**CONTACT US!** **CM2165@HW.AC.UK** **P02010@HW.AC.UK**

**Women@CS** will host an exciting hackathon, bringing together students to tackle a real-world problem through programming. Sponsored by Diageo, this event offers a collaborative environment where participants can showcase their coding skills, think creatively, and develop innovative solutions.

The hackathon is open to all skill levels and aims to promote diversity in tech by fostering teamwork, mentorship, and problem-solving. Whether you're an experienced programmer or new to hackathons, this is a fantastic opportunity to learn, network, and make an impact.

For more information on **Women@CS** events, please contact [cm2165@hw.ac.uk](mailto:cm2165@hw.ac.uk) or [po2010@hw.ac.uk](mailto:po2010@hw.ac.uk).

We are keen for academics in MACS to pop along and support and encourage the students during the Hackathon. Volunteer helpers would be most welcome too. Please contact **Alistair McConnell** or **Tessa Berg** for more information.

*This event is jointly sponsored by Heriot-Watt's*  
**STEM Inclusivity Network and MACS Athena SWAN**



## 5. MACS PhD Information Session – Success!

The MACS *PhD Information Session* for prospective students on 15 January attracted 30 students (approx.). Many thanks to all those that made the event a success. In particular, the members of the PhD Panel:

*Natalia Slusarz, Yifan Xu, Ryan Farish, Luanyu Li,  
Theo Koppenhofer and Emanuele De Pellegrin*

Thanks also to the staff that participated:

*Simon Malham, Daniel Coutand, Wei Pang, Marta Romeo,  
Ron Petrick, Julian Braun, Damian Clancy and Alfred Chong.*

*This event is undertaken as part of the MACS Athena SWAN Action Plan 2024-29*



Staff  
pages



Student  
pages



## Leadership & Allyship: Accelerating Action for Gender Equality

*An International Women's Day event & lunch*

Join us for a keynote talk by Prof Lesley Yellowlees (former President Royal Society of Chemistry), a panel discussion with the School Executive Deans, and a buffet lunch!

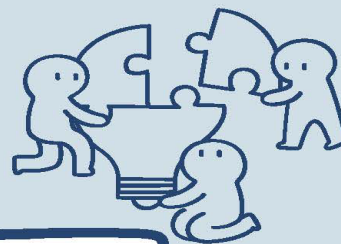


Friday  
**7 March**  
10am-1pm

**Scott Suite**  
**EBS**  
Heriot-Watt  
Edinburgh campus

## Call for participants!

PhD scoping study by Lena Biermann (she/her)



Are you leading a research team in UK academia?

Do any of your research team members identify as neurodivergent?



Use the opportunity to support research on intersectionality between neurodivergence and gender in teamworking environments by participating!

### HOW DO YOU BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATING?

- It provides you with the opportunity to take an active role in knowledge building on neurodivergence and intersectionality, and to make academia more inclusive.
- Participation can be included within EDI reporting and people development of your research project.

### WHO AM I LOOKING FOR?

- **Research team leaders** within UK academia, such as Principal Investigators, Project Managers etc.
- Your research team must include **team members who identify as neurodivergent** (this includes autism, ADHD, Tourette's Syndrome, dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia). Medical diagnosis and self-diagnosis are accepted.

### WHAT DOES YOUR PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?

- Participation requires taking part in a semi-structured interview that will take approx. 60mins.
- Interviews can be done via Microsoft Teams or in person, depending on preference.
- Main interview questions are provided beforehand.

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

To express your interest in the scoping study or if you have any questions, please get in touch with me via email: [lbiermann@hw.ac.uk](mailto:lbiermann@hw.ac.uk) or scan the QR code.



**Please share this flyer with anyone who might be interested to partake!**

This research received approval by the School of Social Sciences Ethics Committee at Heriot-Watt University.

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)*

