



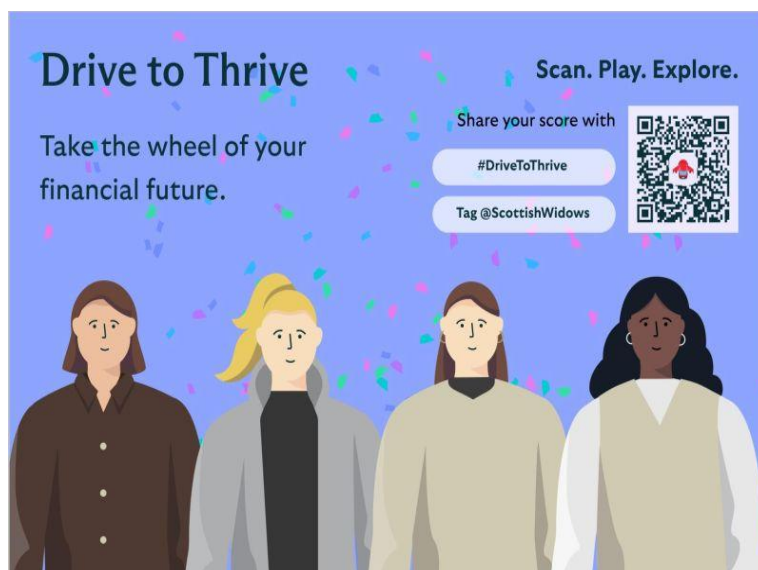
The Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network) Charter was established in 2005 with the aim of “Encouraging and recognising commitment to advancing gender equality” within STEM subjects, i.e., science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Athena SWAN agenda has grown overtime to promote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



1. Our Prize-Winning Team! – MACS Computer Science in Edinburgh



- ✚ **THE EVENT:** Lloyds Banking Group's Two-Day Game Jam held at the Ada Scotland Festival, which It took place 2nd–3rd October 2025 at CodeBase in Edinburgh.
- ✚ **MACS TEAM:** Alona Nezhenska, Precious Onuora, Emma Parfinowska, and Catherine McCorkindale
- ✚ The competition was open to students from the Edinburgh universities.
- ✚ **THE TASK:** teams were tasked to come up with a gamified solution to help bridge the financial literacy gap between men and women, i.e., according to Lloyds, men are more likely than women to discuss their finances with people in their network. Our winning idea centred around encouraging women to do exactly that, start talking to the people around them about their finances.
- ✚ **PRIZE:** 6-month mentorship programme, during which the winning game was developed & launched!
- ✚ Try the game via <https://www.powerup.scottishwidows.co.uk/drive-to-thrive> (or via QR code below).



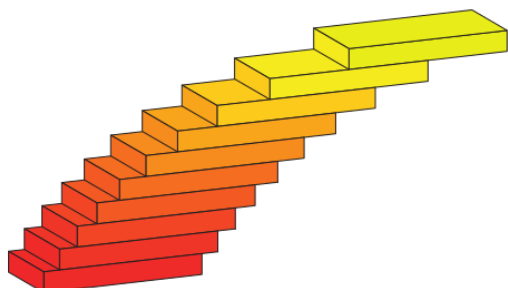


2. Workshop Invitation: Online Assessment in University STEM Education in Scotland with STACK

We are pleased to invite you to a **full-day workshop on Online Assessment in University STEM Education in Scotland with STACK**, hosted by Heriot-Watt University and the Maxwell Institute. The day combines a **morning strategic session (Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt only)** with a **national afternoon workshop open to colleagues across Scotland**. You are warmly invited to join us for the whole day or for the afternoon public event.

Event Details: Thursday 30 April 2026, 10:00-16:30

Location: Earl Mountbatten Building, School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences, Riccarton Campus, Heriot-Watt University



About STACK:

STACK is a powerful open-source system for computer-aided assessment in mathematics and related disciplines. It enables algebraically intelligent marking, meaningful feedback, and scalable high-quality assessment.

Recent developments include extensive question banks and new tools for collaborative question-writing, creating significant opportunities for collaboration in assessment design and curriculum development.

Registration:

To register, please complete the following form:

[Registration Form – Fill in form](#)

More information:

<https://stack-assessment.org/>

We hope this workshop will strengthen collaboration around mathematics and **STEM assessment** across Scotland, and we would be delighted if you could join us for what promises to be an engaging and forward-looking day.

Organized by:

Chris Sangwin (C.J.Sangwin@ed.ac.uk)
Pamela Docherty (p.docherty@hw.ac.uk)

Technology-Enhanced Mathematical Sciences Education (TEMSE) group, The Maxwell Institute



MAXWELL INSTITUTE FOR
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES





3. EDI for Managers Training on the Edinburgh Campus

Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) for Managers Training

When: 30 April 2026, 10:30—12:15 (BST)

Where: In-person – venue TBC

What you'll learn: Gain an understanding of,

- equality, diversity and inclusion matters specific to line managers,
- focusing on Scottish & UK Equality law, bias, discrimination, bullying, harassment, hate crime, human rights, and peer pressure.

Register via: <https://tinyurl.com/HWU-EDI-Training>



**Equality
Diversity
Inclusion**

4. Calling for Heroes!



Emmy Noether

Amalia Emmy Noether (23 March 1882 – 14 April 1935) was a German mathematician who made many important contributions to abstract algebra. She proved Noether's first and second theorems, which are fundamental in mathematical physics. She was described by Pavel Alexandrov, Albert Einstein, Jean Dieudonné, Hermann Weyl and Norbert Wiener as the most important woman in the history of mathematics. As one of the leading mathematicians of her time, she developed theories of rings, fields, and algebras. In physics, Noether's theorem explains the connection between symmetry and conservation laws.




Radia Perlman

Radia Joy Perlman (born December 18, 1951) is an American computer programmer and network engineer. She is a major figure in assembling the networks and technology to enable what we now know as the Internet. She is most famous for her invention of the Spanning Tree Protocol (STP), which is fundamental to the operation of network bridges, while working for Digital Equipment Corporation, thus earning her nickname "Mother of the Internet". Her innovations have made a huge impact on how networks self-organize and move data. She also made large contributions to many other areas of network design and standardization: for example, enabling today's link-state routing protocols, to be more robust, scalable, and easy to manage.




Ada Lovelace

Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace (née Byron; 10 December 1815 – 27 November 1852) was an English mathematician and writer, chiefly known for her work on Charles Babbage's proposed mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine. She was the first to recognise that the machine had applications beyond pure calculation.




Annie Easley

Annie Easley was an American computer scientist and accomplished mathematician who made critical contributions to NASA's rocket systems and energy technologies over her 34-year career. As a black female in America during the 1950s she faced heavy adversity throughout her career and was often underrepresented and disregarded. Despite these barriers Easley demonstrated perseverance and determination to make a name for herself in a line of work dominated by males. She demonstrated exceptional skills in mathematics, data analysis, and code development across projects focused on alternative energy sources, improved power systems, and launch capabilities enabling space communication and exploration.




Dorothy Vaughan

Dorothy Jean Johnson Vaughan (September 20, 1910 – November 10, 2008) was an American mathematician and human computer who worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), and NASA, at Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. In 1949, she became acting supervisor of the West Area Computers, the first African-American women to receive a promotion and supervise a group of staff at the center.




Grace Hopper

Grace Brewster Hopper (née Murray; December 9, 1906 – January 1, 1992) was an American computer scientist, mathematician, and United States Navy rear admiral. One of the first programmers of the Harvard Mark I computer, she was a pioneer of computer programming. Hopper was the first to devise the theory of machine-independent programming languages, and the FLOW-MATIC programming language she created using this theory was later extended by others to create COBOL, an early high-level programming language still in use today.



Please send your suggestions to athena-macs@hw.ac.uk and help celebrate diversity in Computing and/or Mathematics via the 'Big Display Screens' within MACS (Edinburgh). Alternatively, if you know of a video clip (with subtitles) that celebrates diversity in Computing and/or Mathematics then we would also be keen to hear from you.





5. Ada Lovelace Day 2026 – Event Ideas and Volunteers Needed!

Ada Lovelace Day takes place on the second Tuesday of October – although generally events are organized around this date. Last year **Dubai** held a **PechaKucha** focused event while in **Edinburgh** we hosted an Open Lunchtime lecture by **Verena Rieser (Google DeepMind)**.

We are now looking for ideas and volunteers – **from all MACS staff and students across all our Departments and Campuses** – to be part of an organizing team for the **MACS 2026 Ada Lovelace Day (ALD'26)**.

If you are interested in getting involved and/or have a great idea for an event, then **please do get in touch by the end of March**, i.e., contact us via:

athena-macs@hw.ac.uk



And finally ...

This is the last issue of the Athena SWAN Newsletter for academic year 2025-26. If you have an event or an initiative starting in the next academic year (2026-27) that relates to *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion* (EDI), then please feel free to send an advert to be included in our September – **Welcome Week** – Issue of the Athena SWAN Newsletter!

Have a Restful Summer!

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. 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)

