



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. Diving into Math with Emmy Noether – Edinburgh



Sandra Schüddekopf, Anita Zieher, Sara Lombardo
(Director) (Actor) (Executive Dean)



Emmy Noether

Thanks to **Professor Sara Lombardo** for bringing the Portraittheater theatre group to Edinburgh, and **ICMS** as the main sponsor for the event. Thanks also goes to the **STEM Inclusivity Network** for funding the catering and **MACS Athena SWAN** for local advertising. Special thanks go to **Mika Moriyama** (Equality & Diversity Advisor) for co-ordinating the Local Arrangements as well as **Charlotte Rutherford** (Events Team) and **Lee Duncan** (AV Team) for their support and guidance.

On the 19th of March “*Diving into Math with Emmy Noether*” was performed on the Edinburgh Campus. **Emmy Noether** was one of the most influential mathematicians of the last century. Combining monologues and film, Emmy’s story was told through her imagined reflections on her life and those of her close colleagues and friends. A hugely compelling story and powerful theatre.

The performance took place in the James Watt Centre and was well attended by a broad range of staff and students as well as members of the wider community that included school children.

“Portraittheater is a Viennese theatre ensemble that focuses on extraordinary persons, especially women, and brings their lives and work to the stage.”

www.portraittheater.net



Scan QR Code for Emmy Noether’s Wikipedia page OR

<https://tinyurl.com/3z7nj3wm>



Anita Zieher as Emmy Noether





2. The Role of AI in Navigating the Future of Software Development – Dubai

I am **Asma Sathar**, a Year 3 Computer Science student and the Google Developer Group (GDG) On Campus Organizer at **Heriot-Watt University Dubai**. I've always wanted to create opportunities for students to connect with industry professionals and gain real-world insights. AI is transforming software development, and I knew that bringing industry experts to campus for an open discussion would be invaluable for students like me. That's what inspired me to organize the panel discussion on "The Role of AI in Navigating the Future of Software Development."

Bringing together experts from Google, Oracle, Dubizzle, and AirCarbon Pte. Ltd., with **Professor Hind Zantout** as the moderator, the event sparked meaningful conversations about how AI is shaping the industry. Seeing students actively engage, ask insightful questions, and walk away with valuable knowledge was truly rewarding.

Organizing an event of this scale wasn't easy, it involved reaching out to speakers, coordinating logistics, and ensuring everything ran smoothly. A huge thank you to Careers GradFutures team especially **Ms. Benita Maben** and **Ms. Judy Aneiny**, whose support made the entire process so much smoother. Their guidance and coordination played a key role in making this event a success. I also had an incredible team alongside me, and their dedication made all the difference. A big shoutout to my GDG On-Campus team, who worked tirelessly to bring this event to life:

- **Rhea Menezes** - Outreach Executive
- **Janya Rathnakumar** - Events Coordinator
- **Karan Chawla** - Event Support Coordinator
- **Jude Elsayed** - Design Executive
- **Durga Anand** - Marketing Executive
- **Jonathan John Thomas** - AI & ML Lead
- **Aditya Shibu** - AI & ML Co-Lead
- **Isaias Biju Thomas** - UI/UX Design Lead
- **Mohammed Ajaz** - Application Development Lead



Asma Sathar



Panel Session

This experience taught me that you don't have to wait for the "perfect moment", if you have an idea, take the first step and figure it out along the way. As students, we have the power to create real opportunities for learning and growth.

Looking forward to organizing more impactful events and continuing to bring industry insights to our university community!





3. The Piscopia Initiative – Edinburgh

Piscopia initiative

The **Piscopia Initiative** aims to encourage more women and underrepresented genders to undertake a PhD in the mathematical sciences and aims to create a sense of community and celebrate those groups already studying a PhD. We want to close the gender gap and improve gender diversity at postgraduate research level for mathematical sciences and beyond!

As the Edinburgh Local Piscopia Committee, we want to be a point of contact and support for those interested in PhD research, breaking down the stereotypes, and advising on PhD applications and opportunities, as well as working with Heriot-Watt University to improve gender diversity and create a welcoming environment. This could be through Information Sessions for prospective students, Mentoring Sessions, regular Meet-Ups among PhD students, Seminars, and other fun Social Activities.

If you'd like to join the Edinburgh Local Piscopia Committee, please get in touch with Kaitlyn Louth krl2000@hw.ac.uk. Check out our webpage here:

[University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University Committee – The Piscopia Initiative](#)

The UK-wide Piscopia Initiative are also on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and run monthly seminars, have a 'Day in the Life' blog series, and organise an annual conference PiFORUM.



You can also [join the mailing list here](#) to hear about funded PhD opportunities, undergraduate summer research projects, PhD conferences, workshops and summer schools, and much more!
For other questions related to Piscopia, please contact piscopiainitiative@gmail.com.





4. Ada Lovelace Day 2025 – 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 ran a **Robot Demo** in the National Robotarium.

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 2025 Ada Lovelace Day (ALD'25)**.

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 April**, i.e., contact us via:

athena-macs@hw.ac.uk



5. Nominations for Honorary Degrees: Have your say

The award recognizes academic as well as wider societal contributions. Part of our MACS Athena SWAN Action Plan is to increase the number of MACS female honorary graduates. Anyone can propose an individual for an honorary degree; simply complete the nomination form on the University web page – see QR Code opposite.



Professor Maria J. Esteban
Honorary Doctorate of Science
Graduation Ceremony: June 2019



Dr Chehrzad Shakiban
Honorary Doctorate of Science
Graduation Ceremony: June 2024



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)

