



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. International Women's Day 2024 – A STEM Inclusivity Network Event (Edinburgh Campus)

### #InspireInclusion at HWU: An International Women's Day event & lunch

Celebrate International Women's Day with the STEM Inclusivity Network! Join us for an invited talk by Simon Chandler-Wilde (EDI Dean, University of Reading) and a panel discussion with representatives from across Heriot-Watt University community. We'll explore how the programs and strategies of the university (including the Students Union, Human Resources, Learning & Teaching, Public Engagement, Access & Inclusion, and Research) contribute to inspiring inclusion, and where we can do better. Let's champion inclusivity and unity together on this special day!



HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY

International Women's Day

# #InspireInclusion at HWU

An International Women's Day event & lunch

Join us for a keynote talk by Prof Simon Chandler-Wilde (EDI Dean, University of Reading), a panel discussion with representatives from across the HWU community, and a buffet lunch!

Thursday  
**7 March**  
11am-1pm

**National Robotarium**  
Heriot-Watt  
Edinburgh campus

SCAN ME

## 2. International Women's Day 2024 – A MACS Dubai Campus Event

**Michelle Zatlyn**, the Co-founder, President, and Chief Operating Officer of cybersecurity firm **Cloudflare Inc** will give a talk in Dubai entitled:

**"Building a better Internet for Everyone"**

**Date:** Friday 8 March

**Time:** 9.30am - 11.00 am (GST)

**Venue:** Room 2.09/2.14. (Dubai campus)



**Michelle Zatlyn**




### 3. International Women's Day across the Heriot-Watt Campuses

For information of other International Women's Day events that are taking place across the Heriot-Watt campuses checkout the QR Code opposite or the link below:

<https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/services/equality-diversity/athena-swan/international-womens-day.htm>




### 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 standardisation; 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 underestimated and discredited. 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](mailto: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 2024

Ada Lovelace Day takes place on the second Tuesday of October – although generally events are organized around this date. Last year we run a very successful lunch and quiz 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 2024 Ada Lovelace Day (ALD'24)**.

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

[athena-macs@hw.ac.uk](mailto:athena-macs@hw.ac.uk)





## 6. Women in Data Science 2024 (WiDS)



**Women in  
Data Science  
Worldwide**

[www.widsworldwide.org](http://www.widsworldwide.org)

# Women in Data Science 2024



### Dubai perspective:

Heriot-Watt Dubai will host the fifth edition of the regional **Women in Data Science (WiDS) UAE 2024**.

It is free to attend and aims to inspire and educate data scientists and to support women in the field, providing a platform for networking. It is an independent technical day open to anyone interested in Data Science, AI and Machine Learning. On the day, female speakers will either give a talk or contribute as a panellist on a current relevant technical theme or careers. Female researchers and students are welcome to present their work.

**Date:** Saturday 25 May 2024

**Time:** 10.00am to 4.30pm (GST)

**Location:** On-site at Heriot-Watt Dubai in Knowledge Presenters must attend on campus and the talks will be streamed for an online audience. Male attendees are welcome, the female restriction is only for speakers.

### Edinburgh perspective:

Are you interested in data science and want to learn from and connect with experts and peers in the field? If yes, then you should join Edinburgh Regional **Women in Data Science (WiDS) 2024**.

The event will include two amazing keynote speakers along with a workshop focused on entrepreneurial aspects of data science. You will also be able to contribute to a panel discussion on “Exploring Opportunities and Risks of Generative AI in Education”.

**Date:** Wednesday 27 March 2024

**Time:** 9.30am to 5.00pm (GMT)

**Location:** DB 113 (TBC)

**Register now using this link:**

<https://forms.gle/MmiybgJmRA1wRBvt8>

Please note that registration is required and closes on **18 March 2024**.





## 7. MACS Athena SWAN Summer Undergraduate Bursary Scheme

The aim of the **MACS Athena-SWAN Summer Undergraduate Bursary Scheme** is to improve gender equality across our three 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. The School will provide up to four £1000 bursaries to MACS students over the summer of 2024. 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. Staff can access the application form via the following link (it is also available within the January issue of the Newsletter):

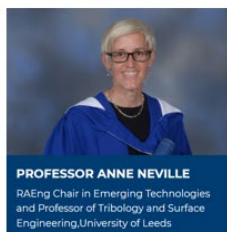


<https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/schools/mathematical-computer-sciences/about/athena-swan.htm#bursaries>

Note that the bursaries are not large. By way of guidance, £1000 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 and the application form below. Applications should be sent to **athena-macs@hw.ac.uk** by **NOON on Friday 5 April 2024**.

## 8. Nominations for Honorary Degrees

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 below.



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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)**

