



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. A Dubai Field Trip



Left-to right: Kan Akutsu (Araya Inc. R&D), Megha Sharma (MACS alumna), Hind Zantout (MACS), Pik Ki Ho (SoSS) and Zainab Husain (SoSS student). Also, not in the photo is Naiyarah Hussain (MACS alumna).

The Japanese company Araya Inc. in collaboration with Osaka University and Dubai Future Labs hosted an event to present their Moonshot Goal 1 prototypes. There were several activities that attendees could engage with, and an all-female team from Heriot-Watt Dubai visited the exhibition. In one example, participants put on a headband (muse) that measures brain activity through its wave signals. When you focus, your brain emits different waves from when you are relaxed:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/brain-waves>

Data from the headband was sent to a specially developed platform where different functions could be performed. For example, there was a racing game, and the participant had to focus on the running avatar in the game and could control the avatar's speed: the more focussed the participant was the faster the avatar ran. One participant who never played a game in her life, beat 2 male participants three times in a row. In another example, sensors were put on the hands of a participant who could then control a motorised delivery bot by pressing the left hand or right hand. Overall, it was a surreal experience, even though the science behind the exhibits was well explained.





2. Career Awareness Training



Carer Awareness: Identifying and supporting carers

- Tue 24 Mar 2026 10-11:00 (Teams)
- Wed 7 Oct 2026 13-14:00 (Teams)

These introductory sessions are delivered by [VOCAL](#) with the aim to make carers more visible in the workplace and help those in senior positions reflect on the hidden impacts of caring, and how to identify and support unpaid carers in their organisation.

These sessions will explore how:

- to identify unpaid carers in the workplace
- to build an awareness of the impacts of caring and how this can affect carers at work
- employers can support carers who are working and the business benefits
- carer rights and underpinning legislation can better support carers in employment
- VOCAL can support working carers and employers.

The sessions will be interactive with opportunities to ask questions along the way.

Any questions, please contact equality@hw.ac.uk

[Book on ERP Learn here](#)

*These training opportunities are part of **Heriot-Watt's Bronze Athena Swan Action Plan** and are being leveraged by the **MACS Silver Athena Swan Action Plan**.*





MACS (Edinburgh) Staff Coffee/Tea



*Every Monday at 10am 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. 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)*

