



The network for women studying Science, Engineering,
Technology and the Built Environment in Scotland

News from the network

Welcome back!

To those of you who are returning to a new academic year, as well as to those of you who are new starters! We hope you've had a fantastic summer break and are looking forward to starting a new term or semester.

Heriot Watt & Aberdeen Interconnect Groups

We are going to be working hard at Heriot Watt and Aberdeen Uni this semester to get an Interconnect student group up and running. The plan is for the group to bring together women students studying science, engineering and technology (SET) subjects from across the universities. It will give students the chance to meet each other and also build links within academia and industry.

At **Heriot Watt, Emma Hamilton** (4th Year Mech Eng), Interconnect Student Champion, is looking for other students to get involved in setting up the group. If you are interested then get in touch with Emma at eh45@hw.ac.uk.

At **Aberdeen, Jordan Batty**, 3rd Year Chemical Engineering, has getting things up and running. If you are at Aberdeen or RGU and would like to get involved Jordan can be contacted at j.d.batty@aberdeen.ac.uk

Fresher's Fairs

Interconnect has once again be travelling to fresher's fairs throughout Scotland during September. We've been the length and breadth of the country from Heriot Watt on **7 September**; Aberdeen Well-Fayre on **19 September** to Strathclyde on **21 September**. Thanks to everyone who came to the stall to say hello and sign up to local groups and our mailing list.

Interconnect Booklet

As the initial funding for Interconnect has recently come to an end, we are keen to disseminate our learning from the first 3 years of project as widely as possible. To this end we have produced a booklet which summarises what we've achieved, why it's important and the difference it has made to the lives of women students. If you'd like a copy of the brochure, please email Allison at al.johnstone@napier.ac.uk

Upcoming Events

9th-26th September, Techfest in September 2011, Aberdeen

The public programme for this 3-week long annual festival is packed full of events ranging from Internet Engineering for Everyone to Science of the Silver Screen. The events are spaced throughout the day from lunchtime 'bytes' through to early evening presentations. A full schedule of events is available for download from the [Techfest website](#).

28th September, Interconnect Strathclyde: Get to Know the Girls, Glasgow

Interconnect Strathclyde are having a "Get to know the Committee" event to kick off the new academic year. Go along and find out more about the groups plans for 2011/2012 and get involved. The event will take place at The Ark at 7pm. You can find out more about Interconnect Strathclyde via their facebook group: ["Strathclyde Interconnect"](#)

29th September, Your Digital Future, Edinburgh

This event, organised by the Scottish Resource Centre for Women in SET (SRC) and Skills Development Scotland (SDS) brings together school, college and university students with women from industry and academia. It aims to encourage

greater awareness of the benefits of studying IT and Digital Technology related subjects. If you would like to be a role model to school students interested in IT while also meeting women working in your field then please come along. For more information and to register, please visit the Events section of the SRC website www.napier.ac.uk/src

18th October, Interconnect Workshop: What Employers Want: Job Search Skills with ExxonMobil, Edinburgh

Want to know what employers are looking for in applications and interviews? Then you've come to the right place. An interactive workshop with Lynda Wilson, Senior Recruitment Advisor at ExxonMobil. Come along and get your questions answered and prepare yourself for the job search ahead. The event included a sandwich buffet. [Click here to register.](#)

20th October, JP Morgan and Women in Technology Networking Evening, Glasgow

A date for your diary – more info to follow.

26th October, Inside Government –Widening Participation for Women in STEM, London

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects are integral to the UK's economic success. Engineering turnover stands at approximately £800 billion per year and biomedical sciences are paving the way for research and development. Despite this, STEM remains a male dominated sector. This informative forum will offer delegates the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the government's policies on promoting STEM and how they aim to encourage greater gender participation.

News from Elsewhere

NUS Survey of Employers on Graduate Employability

Recent figures released by the Centre for Economics and Business Research show that 52% of last year's university-leavers were unemployed or under-employed six months after graduating. Given this **increased competition for fewer graduate vacancies**, there has been an increased interest in the education sector in the role international experience and co-curricular activity may play in the enhanced employability of students who undertake such initiatives.

Funded by the Higher Education Academy, NUS Scotland is currently conducting a survey into graduate employability focusing on two specific aspects that enhance graduate attributes: international experience and co-curricular activity.

This Scottish-specific employer survey is the first of its kind to examine the economic impact that international experience and co-curricular activity may have on the lives of students who undertake them, specifically the impact on their future job prospects post study.

This survey provides an opportunity for Scottish employers to indicate how important they consider the acquisition of graduate attributes gained through international study placements and co-curricular activity for their future labour force.

The survey can be filled in here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/nusscotlandemployability>

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has just published a report entitled 'Sex and Power 2011' which finds that although women are better educated than ever before there is a continuing trend of women being passed over for top jobs in Britain.

[>>Download full PDF report](#)

A new online booklet from the UKRC provides practical information and advice for careers advisers to help girls and young women consider careers in science, engineering and technology.

[>>Download booklet](#)

Please feel free to forward our newsletter onto friends and colleagues. A PDF version is available on our website.

Kind regards

Allison

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mailing list: <http://www.interconnect.org.uk/subscribe>

www.interconnect.org.uk

Facebook: the interconnectnetwork

Lorna tweets www.twitter.com/theICnetwork

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