

MACE Women in Engineering Event for [WiSE](#)

**The School of Mechanical Aerospace and Civil Engineering ([MACE](#)) in the University of Manchester marked International Women in Engineering Day by celebrating it with female engineers.**



MACE hosted an event focusing on the careers and successes of women in engineering on 20<sup>th</sup> June. The purpose is to inspire, attract, recruit and retain more women in engineering and technology. The event was predominantly aimed towards PhD students and early career researchers within the Faculty of Science and Engineering ([FSE](#)). It was hosted by the Head of School for MACE, [Professor Alice Larkin](#). Dr Sarah Heath (the Assistant Vice Dean Equality, Diversity and Social Responsibility), Dr Kate Dixon (the Head of School Administration) and Dr Alistair Revell (Director of Social Responsibility) were also at the event.

Being a Professor of Climate Science & Energy Policy and head of an engineering school, Alice herself is an exemplar of the success women can achieve in the field of engineering. Alice highlighted the value of women in engineering and illustrated the support she received which had encouraged her at every stage of her career. Alice emphasised the importance of supporting diversity and pointed out that there was much more to be done to encourage women in engineering.

The panel of speakers included [Chrissi McCarthy](#) (Managing Director of Constructing Equality Ltd); Fran Guratsky, FSE Social Responsibility Manager; [Rebecca Todd](#), lecturer in [EEE](#); and PhD students [Rhys](#) and Mel, who are passionate about gender equality in engineering.

**Chrissi** presented with abundant enthusiasm about the ways to notice and challenge gender inequalities in industry. She provided the audience with a toolkit to recognise and overcome the challenges that they may face being a woman in engineering. She encouraged females to value the skillset they can bring to the workplace. Fran spoke about the amazing activities in FSE that help support the University's Social Responsibility goals with examples of [the projects](#). Particularly the [Athena SWAN Charter](#) which recognises and celebrates good

employment practice for women working in science, engineering and technology in higher education and research. **Rhys and Mel** demonstrated their passion in engineering. The project [Women of Science](#) aims to inspire the next generation of female scientists. Rhys invited the audience to [get engaged](#) with her project and be part of their inspiring stories. **Rebecca Todd** from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering closed the talks with her insights as an academic, including positives of working as an engineer at the University with her abundant experience and humour.

Professor Larkin re-emphasized the importance and value of communication in supporting, helping and celebrating women in engineering. We believe strongly in the importance of encouraging our young people of all genders, particularly women, to investigate the benefits of a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields. We know better than most how rewarding and vitally important those careers can be and so we are proud to get engaged in this awareness campaign.

[Podcast](#) of the event is available online.

(MACE would like to say “Thank You” to the Administration Manager Rachael Ashworth and the PSS members who contributed to the event, including Angel Harper, Svetlana Kuimova, Jose Puello, Denise Wareing.)

