COMPUTER SCIENCE EDI

THE COMPUTER SCIENCE EDI COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

New EDI contact page

We have recently started to update the Computer Science EDI web page. To find out more about what we do and the events we hold please take a look. The website also now includes a new 'Contact the EDI committee' page. This page can be used to get in touch with the committee secretary to report a problem, ask how you can be involved or if you have an idea for an event then why not ask us for support or promotion.

The school is committed to actively promoting inclusion and celebrate diversity in the school and this is made easier when you communicate with us so please don't be afraid to say 'hi'.

What is EDI?

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.
BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR YOU?

At the university of Nottingham we try to ensure that EDI and welfare for staff, students and the wider community is at the center of all our polices, but often these ideas can get lost if people don't know what it can means for them. For example, the University hosts some fantastic events to give you chance to learn and celebrate diversity as well as providing a huge number of forms of support for all students and staff who feel they may need it from support networks to counseling services.

The University of Nottingham wants all staff and students to feel included and supported in a wide range of things, from specific interest groups to wider initiatives designed to help train students and staff. Some of the University-wide initiatives include the networks for LGBTQ+ and BME staff (for students these groups are represented by the Students Union), the 'Lets be clear on consent' campaign to ensure all staff and students understand consent, and recently has undertaken a survey to help identify issues affecting the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic students and staff with a view of applying for Advance HE's Race Equality Charter Bronze status in summer 2020.

Within the school we try to make sure that staff and students are made aware of the central events and activities as well as hosting our own Computer Science specific events such as Chinese New Year celebrations, Ada Lovelace day events and the Margins conference to name a few. We are always looking to expand this list and identify areas where we can do more, so please feel free to contact the committee with your suggestions.

The university expects all its staff and students to follow the ethical behaviors set out in the Nolan principles. These include: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership

"Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) are vital for everyone in our staff and student community."
- Sarah Sharples (Pro Vice-Chancellor for EDI)

Summer at CS

Summer doesn't mean we get to stop. With masters and PhD students still studying, research being carried out and preparation for the new academic year being undertaken the school doesn't get to slow down much over the summer holidays. Over summer we also see the city celebrate its diversity with Pride and invite potential new students for our open days.
As well as all this the school also takes on interns each year. This year we had 10 interns who held positions across all research groups. Thank you to Alexi Dewfall, Jane Slinger and Meng Wu for the taking the time to tell us about their internships, why they applied and what they got from it.
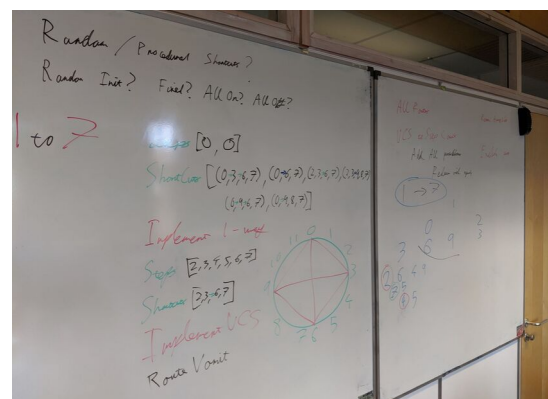
Pride Lanyards

Thank you to everyone who has taken a pride lanyard throughout June and July to celebrate Pride as well as celebrate the diversity within our school. These lanyards were also well received during the open day by our visitors as well, with many asking if they can take one.

It was also great to see so many Computer Science staff and students get involved in Nottinghamshire Pride despite of the torrential on Saturday 27th July.

Alexi Dewfall

I initially applied for a number of internships within the school, I wanted to experience more of what postgraduate academia would be like as well as give myself a project for the summer. I ended up being able to chose an internship that really interested me and I felt I could excel with. I was initially tasked with creating problem domains for the IPC, Intention Progression Competition, a challenge for AI agents to solve problems in dynamic environments. However as I settled in I was invited to help out with all aspects of the competition writing for the website, developing the software stack, example entries, and of course, designing problems. Beyond the internship itself I have the opportunity to remain involved with the project in my 3rd year, including potentially contributing to a paper on the IPC and helping run the competition itself in 2020. I would fully recommend an internship within the school as it's a chance to really get involved with the research and academic side of the university and experience more than just teaching during your degree. The experience of collaborating in a postgraduate environment, being based in a working lab and contributing to the vision and direction of a project is a fantastic learning opportunity.

Summer at CS

Jane Slinger

I was interested in the internship with the RoboClean team because I thought it would be good opportunity to gain experience and confidence in my coding in a project that interested me. The internship involved eveloping an Alexa skill to control Neato vacuum cleaners by voice and I also helped to run a study to find out how users would interact with the potential system. I enjoyed the work as it was in an area that interested me and had some challenges in the code to overcome, leading me to learn more about how the systems worked to explore different solutions. I also enjoyed meeting and working with the team who were supportive and always happy to help.

I feel that the internship will help me with my studies and future work as it has given me experience of working with a research team, building on areas I had studied in my 3rd year project as well as expanding to other technical skills that I hadn't used before and will be helpful in future. I would definitely recommend an internship as it was less nerve-wracking than I expected and gives you an opportunity to develop your skills and gain experience of a relevant workplace in a supportive environment.

Meng Wu (Q&A)

Why did you apply for the internship:
This internship offers great opportunity to practice skill.
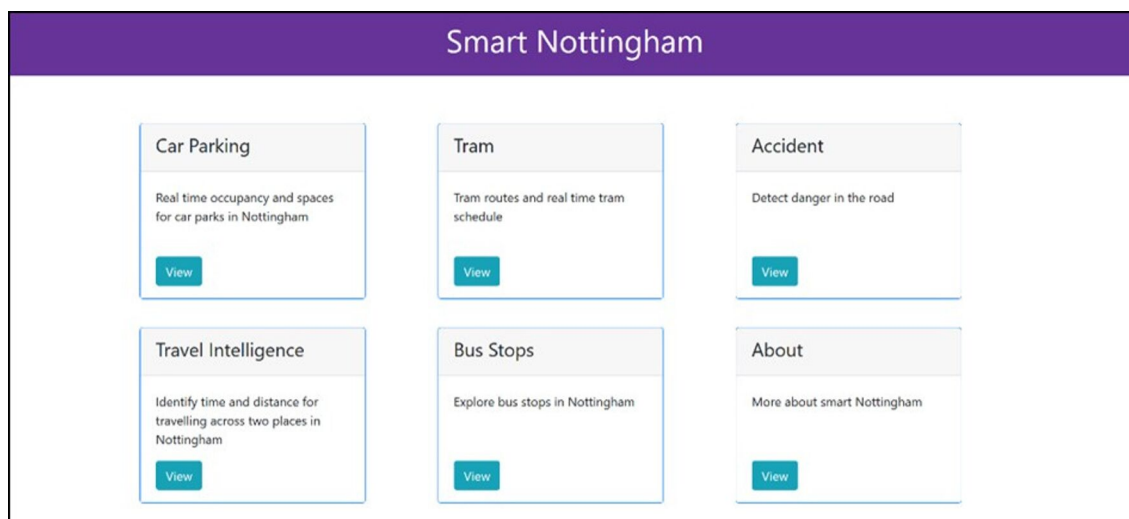
How will it help you with your studies:
The ability of project management is enhanced. My knowledge of particular research area is also increased significantly.

What have you enjoyed most about your time as an intern:
I enjoy this internship very much. I have read a lot of papers in the internship, and it is really pleasured to learn others' brilliant idea. My supervisors have also given me great support and suggestion. For the programming aspect, I use some of the new toolkit or Framework in the work. It is enjoyable as some of the toolkits or frameworks are elegant and brilliant.

What have you done during your internship:
I have developed a data hub to collect and integrate transport data in real time fashion. The data hub visualizes real time transport data of various aspects in an interactive map. Historical data is also analysed to produce intelligent, for example, analyse historical accident data to produce hot spot. Vert.x, an event-driven application toolkit and Google map API are mainly used for implementation. Overview of functionality of platform is shown below:

What would you say to someone thinking of applying for an internship next year:
This internship is a great opportunity to increase research ability and implement new idea.

Summer at CS

June and September Open days

On June 28th and 29th and September 13th and 14th we welcomed over 700 potential new students and their guests to the school. As part of the visit they took part in tours of the building and facilities as well as a demo with Steve Bagley and a talk explaining what we do here. The feedback from the open days was really positive and it was great to see so many perspective new students welcomed so nicely.

I want to take this time to say thank you to the Hub team for helping organise the days, all the staff that gave up their time to help with talks, tours and talking to visitors and finally a big thank you to all the student ambassadors who helped with the days, including representatives from both Hacksoc and Compsoc and the PhD students who gave demonstrations in the robots lab and MRL.

New student mentor scheme

This year we continue the CS mentor scheme but with the introduction of senior mentors from years 3 and 4 to support the second year and Ningbo mentors. The mentors are there to help new first year undergraduate students transition into University life and offer informal direct support or advise where more information can be found. First year undergraduate students will have 6 timetabled sessions with their mentors throughout the year as well as monthly cake drops for a more informal catch ups (and free cake/ fruit).
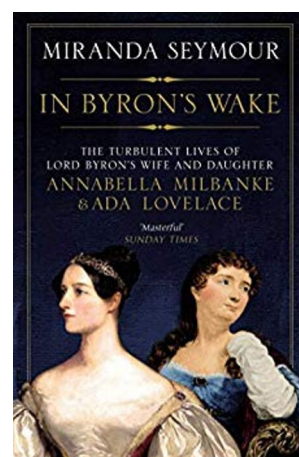
Up and coming events

Ada Lovelace Day-A celebration of research and careers of women in computational sciences - 7th October

A celebration of research and careers of women in computational sciences at the University of Nottingham. Talks from: **Louise Brown** (Faculty of Engineering) "From Mechanical Engineer to Research Software Engineering Fellow – Reflections on an Unconventional Career Story" **Meghan Gray** (School of Physics & Astronomy) "Untangling the cosmic web with telescopes and supercomputers". **Mercedes Torres Torres** (School of Computer Science) "Postnatal Gestational Age Estimation Using Newborn Images" **Abby Miller** (School of Chemistry) "Electrostatic Interactions in Many-Body Polarisable Systems" **Ivette Fuentes** (School of Mathematics) "Alice Falls into a Black Hole: A Journey to Find the Connections Between Quantum Information and Relativity".
This event is being held in B17, Chemistry Building 2pm-4pm.

Who is Ada Lovelace? - 8th October

Have you ever wondered who Ada Lovelace is and why we celebrate her for her work in STEM? Miranda Seymour, local author, will be coming in to give a talk on Ada and how she used her passion and talent to help shape modern computer science 100 years before the birth of electronic computers. Miranda will be giving a talk based on her award winning book *In Byron's Wake: The Turbulent Lives of Lord Byron's Wife and Daughter: Annabella Milbanke and Ada Lovelace* on 8th October at 5pm at Lakeside arts
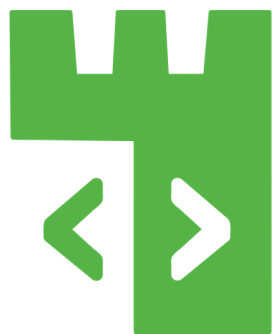

Black History month - October

In October the world celebrates Black History month. To celebrate in the school and help get students together computer science will be hosting a free film night (snacks included) for computer science students showing *Hidden Figures* at Hallward Library screening room on Wednesday 23rd October at 4pm. Keep an eye on social media and emails for the event sign up link

Up and coming events

HackNotts 2019

On November 16th-17th the school also welcomes back HackNotts 24 hour Hackathon for the 6th year organised by our very own Hacksoc. During this events students will team up to learn about tech and create cool stuff. For tickets and more information head to tickets.hacknotts.com

Central University events

As well as our computer science film screening there will be a umber of events happening around the University to celebrate black history month including:

- *20th Century Britain through the lens of Black American Music*- this will be held at Peggy's Skylight on 7th and 8th October at 7:30pm
- *Career Success - the BME Experience* - This event will be held at the Senate Chamber, Trent Building, on 17th October at 4pm
- *Black Healthcare Leaders and Trailblazers* - This display will be available in the medical school foyer throughout October
- *Black Nurses: The Women who saved the NHS* - The School of Health Science BME network will be hosing this event in lecture theater 3, QMC on 7th October at 5pm.
- Organ and Blood Donor Awareness Campaign - This campaign will be running throughout the month at several locations including:
  - 11am-1pm, Tuesday 8, 15, 22, 29 October, A Floor, Medical School Foyer
  - 10am-2pm, Saturday 12 October, Nottingham City Centre
  - 10am-2pm, Saturday 19 October, Beeston Town Centre

For more information on any of these events head over to *https://exchange.nottingham.ac.uk/blog/celebrate-black-history-month-2019/*

Diwali 2019

Diwali 2019 takes place on Sunday 27th October. Diwali is a 5 day festival of light celebrated by millions of Sikhs, Hindus and Jains over the world to mark the triumph of light over darkness. Keep an eye on our social emails and emails to find out events happening around campus.