

## NICOLA COOPER, YOUNG IT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Within six years of graduating from our MComp in Computer Science, Nicola Cooper was managing IBM's multi-million pound business with Shell. She won the prestigious Young IT Professional of the Year award in 2011. She now works for Ernst and Young as an Associate Director.

Watch her video online: <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/dcs/undergraduate/careers>

## LAURA CRACIUN, MCOMP AI AND COMPUTER SCIENCE 2015



I decided to study at Sheffield not only because it is one of the top 10 universities in the UK but also because it was recommended to me by one of my friends. I attended an open day and I absolutely loved it! Everybody was very welcoming and I accepted my offer later on that day. It was one of the best things I have ever done in my life! Learning software engineering, computer science and artificial intelligence has been a fantastic experience, it has prepared me well for a career as a computer scientist. I now work for PSG Connect Ltd, the country's market leader in search provision. My role as a software developer is very complex and challenging but really enjoyable altogether. I have been using the programming skills and practices gained during my degree, and trying to continuously build up on them by learning the latest technology approaches.



The University Of Sheffield.

Department Of Computer Science.



# The World Needs More Women Computer Scientists

*Women in Computing at Sheffield*

"At Sheffield we are deeply committed to increasing the representation of women in computing. Computer science is a challenging and creative discipline, which is tackling real-world societal, environmental and medical problems. A truly inclusive approach, from school through to university and industry, is our best hope of driving the discipline forward."  
*Professor Guy Brown, Head of Department*

## WOMEN IN COMPUTING AT SHEFFIELD



"I am committed to making our department the best possible place to study and work for all. We are very proud to have been awarded the prestigious Athena SWAN bronze award in recognition of our continued effort to increase equality and diversity for everyone. I like to meet with our women students during their first week in Sheffield. It's a great way for me to introduce you to some of our activities, and I also like to

hear about your expectations. This year, I'm particularly excited about a new mentoring scheme on offer to all new women students. To make it easier to link up with the other women students in the department, we will pair each first year student with a senior year student - this initiative was suggested by our current students!"

*Dr Heidi Christensen, Lecturer and Diversity and Equality Champion*

## WHAT WE'RE DOING

**OUTREACH** You'll have the opportunity to engage with lots of inspirational outreach activities. Our Women in Engineering Student Society collaborates with local schools, industry, recruitment and public engagement fairs and takes part in national and international events. You have the opportunity to help out on open days, and we run a popular ambassadors scheme where you can go back to your old school and encourage students to come to Sheffield to study. Our students volunteer as instructors on CodeFirst:Girls courses Django Girls weekends.

**ENHANCING YOUR JOB PROSPECTS** We work closely with our students to enhance their CVs. All students have dedicated one-to-one CV-focused tutor meetings right from the first year. There is a growing number of events aimed particularly at women, where they can engage with potential employers. For example, we participate in the yearly Ada Lovelace Colloquium and various British Computer Society Women activities.

**PROVIDING ROLE MODELS** The Faculty of Engineering's Wall of Women showcases some of our women academic staff and students. We have some inspiring female academics in the Department of Computer Science, including two Professors. See: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/faculty/engineering/wie/index>

## MEET OUR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

### RADINA KALPAKOVA, MENG SOFTWARE ENGINEERING 2013



Between my 3rd and 4th year at the University of Sheffield, I got an internship with Amazon. I was part of their backend catalogue team. I was offered a permanent position at Amazon before I graduated. I moved to London after graduation and became part of the Amazon Instant Video department and more specifically their iOS team as a Software Development Engineer. I have really loved my experience so far. I have had the chance to work on amazing features which have immediate impact on thousands of customers including rewriting parts of the Apple Player stack so we can have custom player controls, First Episode Free (giving the customers the chance to watch the first episode of TV series for free) and releasing this

to the Japanese market. I have gained first-hand experience of the full software engineering process in a corporate environment. There was a lot to take in but the course at Sheffield made me feel fully prepared to embrace these new challenges.

### VICTORIA HAWTHORN, BSC COMPUTER SCIENCE FINAL YEAR



I chose the University of Sheffield for several reasons. I loved the accommodation at Endcliffe, the Students' Union, the night life and the Peak District. You have lots of access to computer labs and these are even better now The Diamond building is complete. I really like the variety of areas you can study within the course and the flexibility. I didn't have to decide straight away if there was a specific area I wanted to focus on or if I wanted to take a placement year. Between my second year and third year I decided to take a placement year. The department and careers service were really helpful. They helped to find suitable roles to apply for and gave me advice on my CV and cover letters. I worked at Network Mapping as a Research and Development Technician. I worked on a range of projects enabling me to find the most appropriate

methods and technologies for each project. I would really encourage coming to Sheffield as there are so many opportunities and it is a brilliant place to start your career. Sheffield is one of the best student cities in the country and I have loved every minute!