



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
Engineering

# GALA/2024

## Recruitment Networking Dinner

23 October 2024

DoubleTree Hilton Glasgow



✉ [gala@strath.ac.uk](mailto:gala@strath.ac.uk)

[Strathclyde Gala Dinner](#)

[@StrathGala](#)

[www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/getinvolved/gala](http://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/getinvolved/gala)

A large, stylized graphic of the AMD logo, consisting of a square with a diagonal line from the top-left to the bottom-right, creating two triangles. The top-right triangle is light gray, and the bottom-left triangle is dark gray. The background of the entire image is a dark blue field filled with a dense, colorful pattern of small dots in shades of blue, purple, and red, resembling a digital or data landscape.

# SOLVING THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES

**AMD** 

together we advance\_

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## Programme

6.30	Drinks Reception
7.15	Call to Dinner Welcome speech
9.15	Comfort break
9.30	Keynote speech from guest speaker Bilge Mutluer Charity Raffle Draw Closing Remarks
10.15	Networking begins
12.00am	Close



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This project was recently named Ground Investigation Project of the Year at the Ground Engineering Awards, and it's incredible to think I got to be part of something that big, learning from the best minds in the field and getting hands-on experience. I can truly say SSE offered me the opportunity to learn how to be an engineer."

**Jessica Pi, SSE Renewables**

"I chose SSE as it is one of the leading companies in the energy industry in the UK. As the renewable generation industry is on the rise, north of Scotland's transmission network is very vital to achieve the 2050 net zero carbon emissions target. In my opinion, SEN was the best career choice for me to gain experience as an Electrical engineer who is enthusiastic about power systems and specifically transmission networks, as it allows me to be part of a righteous movement towards the environment.

I am currently in the process of becoming a chartered engineer, which is a very important qualification for engineers, and I have a mentor who guides me at every step."



**Hamza Abedrabbo, Transmission**



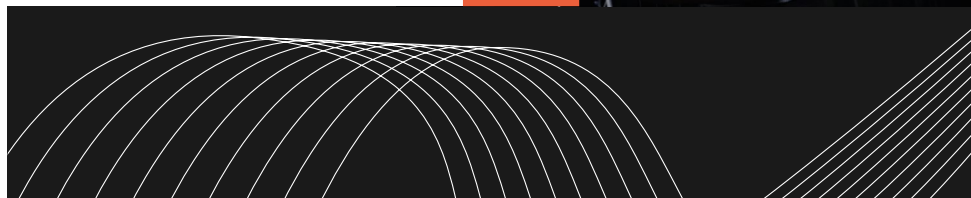
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# Welcome from the Dean of Engineering



Welcome to Gala 2024! It is exciting that this special event has now returned, and we can resume the excellent networking it has enabled between students, industrialists and academics.

The aim of our Gala Dinner is to connect our students in the final stages of their undergraduate degree programmes with potential employers, through a relaxed and enjoyable networking event. From this, new friendships and partnerships emerge, and it supports our skilled students to become the new talent that delivers our industry partners' growth and ambitions. It is really pleasing that Gala has continued to grow in size and popularity since it started in 2000.

The Gala Dinner is just one, highly successful, example of how the University of Strathclyde focuses on being "The Place of Useful Learning". It allows our students to showcase their experience and knowledge, and to explore with industry how their skills and learning can help deliver the products, services and innovation we need today, and in the future.

There are wider benefits, too. It reinforces industry's positive view of Strathclyde's engineering graduates, and students have a better understanding of the relevance, value and quality of a Strathclyde education. Our academic staff develop new contacts to

strengthen their teaching and research, and alumni return to Gala Dinner events as sponsors in future years to help expand the network.

I would like to thank the student organising committee for all the time and effort they have dedicated to organising this event. Their hard-work and enthusiasm has ensured that this year's event takes place. I also want to thank our many industrial colleagues and members of academic and administrative staff for their continued support for the Gala Dinner. Without their support, Gala would not now be the long-standing and successful event that it is.

On behalf of the Faculty of Engineering, I hope you have an enjoyable evening. I look forward to hearing about the opportunities uncovered and friendships created during this Gala Dinner. It will be the start of new careers and many successes, and we are excited to learn more about these when we meet you again as future sponsors and/or alumni.

**Professor Stephen McArthur**  
Associate Principal & Executive Dean of Engineering, University of Strathclyde

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# Foreword

Good evening, and a warm welcome to Strathclyde's 22nd Engineering Gala dinner. It is my pleasure to host you here tonight amongst some of the brightest and best minds in engineering that this country has to offer. Chairing this event has been an exciting and an invaluable learning experience, as I took on the role with the aim of strengthening the links between students and industry. The gala's purpose is to provide a platform for students who are approaching the end of one chapter in their professional career and entering another. One that allows them to seriously consider the different doors that an engineering degree at Strathclyde could open up. Similarly, employers get the opportunity to sit down with and really get to know the incoming generation of engineers who will potentially be carrying the legacy of their company over. It is a mutually beneficial event, and I sincerely hope that everyone can take something away from it. Particularly to the students – Don't shy away from striking up a conversation and introducing yourself.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the people who have helped me bring the gala to life this year, without them we wouldn't all be here tonight. Thank you to the engineering faculty staff for their assistance with the complex business/paperwork side of things. The Gala committee who have given me unwavering support with the logistics of tonight, and invested whatever spare time they had into making tonight a

success. I couldn't have done it without you all! A special thank you is owed to Aidan O'Riordan, last years chair of the Gala who put in an extraordinary amount of effort to bring the gala back after its 3 year dormancy following the covid-19 pandemic. The support he has given me with the handover has been incredible. Finally, I want to show gratitude to all sponsors that have given the gala continuous loyalty and support year after year, and to those who have made the leap to us for the first time. We hope this is the beginning of a new longstanding connection with Strathclyde Engineering.

We have some incredible individuals with us tonight as guests of honour, one of whom will be delivering a keynote speech to share their story, and highlight that they too have been where you are all currently sitting. Lastly, I would encourage everyone to really seize the networking opportunities that they come across throughout the evening, students, employers and every other guest. Sometimes, all it takes is a conversation to change the trajectory of your life...

Thank you again for joining us and contributing to the growing engineering community we are building together. Enjoy the Gala, and may it be the beginning of many great opportunities!

**Sabrina Merahi**

**Strathclyde Gala Dinner Chairperson 2024  
5th Year Biomedical Engineering Student**





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# The University of Strathclyde



**More than two centuries ago, Professor John Anderson shared his vision for a ‘place of useful learning’ and in doing so, laid the foundation for the University of Strathclyde.**

The same ethos remains strong within the institution as it evolves into a leading international technological institution.

We remain committed to our innovative teaching methods, ground breaking research, and close links with industry at home and abroad.

We are the third largest university in Scotland with over 30,000 students from over 140 countries, attracted by our international academic reputation, vibrant teaching and learning environment, and strong engagement with business and industry. Our commitment to useful learning guides our research, our learning and teaching and the way we work with businesses and organisations.

We offer a flexible, innovative, learning environment where you can enjoy a first-class student experience. We combine established academic tradition with innovative teaching

methodologies and pioneering research, to deliver a modern, exciting and globally relevant curriculum.

Our ambition is to be among the leading technological universities in the UK and the world. We have recently been named Scottish University of the Year 2024, and UK University of the Year runner-up in the Daily Mail University of the Year Awards.

Strathclyde is a vibrant, forward thinking university that makes a major contribution to the life and economy of Glasgow and to Scotland as well as increasingly significant international impact through our innovative courses and commercially driven research.

We're transforming our campus, with investment set to reach £1 billion by 2025 to create a first-class working and learning environment for our students and staff. This includes investment in our sports Centre, Strathclyde Sport, which opened in 2018,, and in our new £60 million Learning and Teaching Building which opened in 2021.. Further investment is currently taking place in several of our Engineering buildings, including the recent £15 million refurbishment of our Biomedical Engineering building.



# The University of Strathclyde

## Engineering at Strathclyde

The Faculty of Engineering is recognised for producing high-calibre graduates and we are committed to enhancing the student experience through the development of research-informed education and through investment in teaching infrastructure, with significant investments being made in teaching facilities and world-class laboratories.

Strathclyde aims to produce the very best engineers, equipped with the technical and softer skills required for challenging and rewarding careers that means we must deliver high quality innovative teaching coupled with a thriving and leading research environment.

All of our programmes are closely linked with relevant industries and students have the chance to work on projects assigned by companies based on real situations and lectures from employers explain the relevance of the subjects, and demonstrate the latest developments in industry. This close contact with industry also ensures that our degrees are up-to-date and that Strathclyde graduates have the key skills that industry needs.

With our strong links to business the Faculty of Engineering at Strathclyde achieves a consistently high graduate employment rate. Many employers target Strathclyde programmes and, as a result, students often have jobs lined up before they graduate.

All of our established undergraduate Engineering programmes are fully accredited by the relevant professional Engineering institutions allowing graduates to become eligible for Chartered Engineer status.

Study at the Faculty of Engineering is not just about attending lectures and learning the theory. The way we design our programmes and deliver the teaching means that students must apply and test their knowledge. We believe that this interactive approach coupled with many personal development opportunities, challenges our students and produces the leading well rounded young engineers that you need for your business.





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# Engineering Highlights 2023-24

## Strathclyde student teams make finals of sustainable engineering contest

Two teams of Strathclyde undergraduates made it to the Grand Finals of the Engineering for People Design Challenge, run by Engineers Without Borders UK, in Manchester in June.

More than 11,000 university students took part in the competition, which aims to broaden awareness of the social, environmental, and economic impacts of engineering.

The Engineering for People Design Challenge takes a project learning approach to support students in understanding their impact as engineers on both people and the planet.

This year, the challenge community was set in the rural village Pu Ngaol in the forested hills of the Mondulkiri province in eastern Cambodia.

The Strathclyde team from Civil and Environmental Engineering included third year students Cara Winterburn, Christopher Skinner, Hannah Tyndale, Michael Reid-Thomas, and Ruairidh Revill Hayward. Their design aims to reduce pollution and waste through an innovative solution which transforms plastic bottles into ropes.

The Design Manufacturing & Engineering Management team included second year students Louisa Duncan, Evan Goldie, Isobel Tame, Jude Young and Jack Evans. Their project is focused on flood prevention during extreme weather, whilst enabling irrigation of fields throughout the year.

## Strathclyde engineering students make waves with support for sailing teams

The University of Strathclyde made waves in the world of competitive sailing earlier this year.

Businessman and Strathclyde alumnus Leslie Stretch supported the student sailing team's participation the Sailing Champions League Youth Final, which took place in Vilamoura, Portugal in May,

The five-strong group of students are members of the University of Strathclyde Sailing Club and qualified for the British Keelboat Finals category of the competition after finishing second overall in the Scottish Qualifier held at the Royal Southern Yacht Club, Southampton, in February 2023.

The student sailors: Luis Aroca (helm), Marc Heger (main), Tom Bowes (jib and kite trim), Calum Warnock (bow) and Emily Miller (Mast) all study Naval Architecture with High Performance Marine Vehicles, were the only team representing Great Britain and the University of Strathclyde, racing against the best sailors in the whole of Europe and Australia, who qualified in their respective national events.

Luis said: "In the Scottish Qualifier we raced the best sailors from across Great Britain. The competition was run over three days and was highly demanding, with a total of 42 races in wind speeds ranging from three to 21 knots. Having the added difficulty of not having raced before in those waters, and despite limited training hours in the boat, we managed to perform at our best, finishing first more times than any other team, and winning almost half of our races.

"We are delighted with the opportunity to compete at such an elite level in the Sailing Champions League Youth Final."

## Strathclyde students are 'Out of this World'!

Students from the Strathclyde Aerospace Innovation Society recently travelled to the US to take part in the 2024 Spaceport America Cup competition.

The world's largest intercollegiate rocketry competition ended this year's tournament with a record-setting number of teams competing from around the world.

Spaceport America and the Experimental Sounding Rocket Association (ESRA) started the event in 2017 where students design and build a rocket that they can launch to target altitudes.

The team, who came 18th out of 120 teams, placed 9th in their category out of 67 teams. Their rocket, Strathosphere MKIII, reached 9334ft in the skies over New Mexico!

Achieving one of the highest scores for rocket design, the team are out of this world!

## Strathclyde wins Young & Senior Researcher awards at European transport conference

Two University of Strathclyde researchers have been honoured for their cutting-edge maritime safety research.

Hollie Black, who is pursuing a PhD at the department of Naval Architecture & Ocean Marine Engineering (NAOME), won the Young Researcher Award 2024 in the 'Waterborne' category in the Transport Research Arena (TRA) Vision Awards.

Emeritus Professor Dracos Vassalos, also from NAOME, was given an Honorary TRA Award for his lifelong contribution to advancing maritime safety.

Hollie is conducting her PhD research at the Maritime Human Factors Centre and her PhD project 'AI-Driven Identification of Human Factors in Maritime Incidents,' focuses on using Artificial Intelligence techniques to enhance safety in maritime and offshore wind environments by analysing human factors contributing to incidents.

Hollie said: "I am deeply honoured to have received this award. This recognition underscores the importance of innovative research in enhancing safety within the maritime industry. Through leveraging AI to analyse human factors leading to incidents, I aim to help contribute to a safer maritime environment."

Her PhD supervisor at Strathclyde, Dr Rafet Emek Kurt, said: "Hollie's research is not only innovative but also incredibly important, as it showcases a critical application in enhancing safety learning from maritime accidents and near misses."

## Engineering student is People's Choice winner 2024

Architecture student, Farhana Mohammed Isa has been announced as the winner of this year's People's Choice Award at the recent 'Images of Research' exhibition which was held in the Technology & Innovation Centre (TIC) in July.

This award celebrates the creativity and impact of our researchers, as voted by the public and our vibrant Strathclyde community.

This year's competition theme was Exploring the Unseen.

It aims to highlight the hidden, often overlooked aspects of research, while the exhibition showcases the breadth and depth of research taking place across all four faculties at a local, national, and international scale.

Congratulations to Farhana Mohammed Isa from Architecture for their image "Nature-based Experiences in Urban Preschool Environment".

Farhana's image highlights the rising concern of nature deficit disorders among urban children, emphasising the importance of integrating nature into preschool architecture for well-being.

This year the Images of Research exhibition was also shown in Glasgow Central bringing the images to a whole new audience.

Explore the online gallery to see the entire exhibition [here](#) - 2024 | University of Strathclyde

## Strathclyde Motor sport team achieve third in design finals!

The University of Strathclyde's Motorsport (USM) team have been running and competing in competitions for over 20 years, including the annual Formula Student UK competition which runs at Silverstone. The team consists of around 60 undergraduate student members, who come from departments throughout the University, but with the majority studying in the Faculty of Engineering.

The team work together throughout the year to build a single-seater racing car, which will then compete in events against other student teams from around the world.

This year the team attended the Silverstone UK competition in July, where 130 teams from over 30 countries across the world gathered to compete. After a full weekend of events that the team competed in, including static events and dynamic events, the team were delighted with their results.

They were named third in their first design finals in 3 years and finished the endurance event for the second year in a row.

Once again a massive achievement for the whole team!

# Charity Raffle

## Engineers Without Borders (EWB) UK

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) UK are a charity with the goal of placing global responsibility at the forefront of engineering. Coming up with innovative and creative solutions is a key part of an engineer's role, therefore EWB work to equip the engineers of tomorrow with the necessary skills to take on challenges and ensure solutions are sustainable and globally responsible.



With student Chapters across the UK, including at the University of Strathclyde, Engineers Without Borders work with students, organisations and individuals alike.

The student led Chapter at the University of Strathclyde has organised events in the past including a Designathon, which took place last year. This was an opportunity for collaboration between ourselves and several other EWB Chapters to organise an event centred around the theme of sustainable cities. A design brief was provided and students from different universities worked together to come up with innovative solutions which they then presented.

The donations made to Engineers Without Borders UK contributes to their ongoing work to reshape engineering through methods such as workshops and educational design challenges.



# The Gala 2024 Committee



**Sabrina Merahi**  
Gala 2024 Chairperson  
Biomedical Engineering



**Ethan Gomes**  
Design Manufacturing  
& Engineering Management



**Euan Chapman**  
Civil & Environmental  
Engineering



**Jack Kee**  
Biomedical Engineering



**Megan Toney**  
Electronic & Electrical  
Engineering



**Selina Ross**  
Biomedical Engineering



**Sneha Mohanarajah**  
Biomedical Engineering



## THE UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE MOTORSPORT (USM)

The Formula Student (FS) competition is the largest student engineering design competition in the world. Teams are challenged to design, manufacture, market and race a single seater racecar.

Following on from our most successful season in 12 years, where we achieved a result of 36th place in FS Germany, we are proudly displaying our third EV FS car. We are now looking forward to the new season where we hope to improve upon our recent success whilst also exploring the frontiers of autonomous vehicle development.



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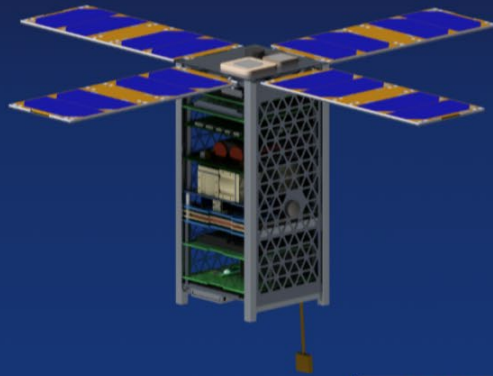
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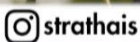
# STRATH AIS

## AEROSPACE INNOVATION SOCIETY

We are the University of Strathclyde's largest aerospace society, founded in 2019. Our mission is to act as a platform for students to grow as engineers and as leaders, through participating in our large-scale extracurricular projects in rocketry, space systems, and aviation such as the Spaceport America Cup and the development of STRATHcube



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# GALA/2025

**Coming October 2025**

Your chance to become part of the Gala Community and join our committee next year.

## Roles

Sponsorship Coordinator (Paid)  
- penultimate year students

Social Media Ambassador (Voluntary)  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year students

Committee Member(s)  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> years



### **The Faculty of Engineering**

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**w:** [www.strath.ac.uk/engineering](http://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering)

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