

A Fun Night with SIAM-IMA – A Careers Talk & Quiz (2020/2021)

University of Strathclyde SIAM-IMA Student
Chapter

The University of Strathclyde SIAM-IMA Student Chapter successfully hosted a virtual networking event with the Manchester, Cardiff, and Dublin chapters for PhD students on the 9th of December 2020. This collaborative event aimed to inform students on how they can use their PhD in industry and promote networking between students, specifically chapter members, from each university. The event, therefore, consisted of a career talk given jointly by Dr Ben Tordoff and Dr Oli Tissot from MathWorks, followed by a team table quiz with 40-50 attendees from the four universities.

The careers talk gave a brief history of MathWorks and MATLAB and described the problems they solve and how their customers make the world a better place using the tools they build. In particular, Dr Ben Tordoff, who has worked with MathWorks for 15 years, discussed the work carried out by their team developing parallel computing products. Dr Oli Tissot, who has recently completed their PhD and joined MathWorks as a software engineer, provided details on the transition from academia into an industrial career. The presentation also gave an insight into how the skills and knowledge gained during a PhD can then be transferred and utilized in industry. To learn more about MathWorks, we recommend consulting the blog by MathWorks co-founder Cleve Moler, Cleve’s Corner – <https://blogs.mathworks.com/cleve/>, or the blog Behind the Headlines – <https://blogs.mathworks.com/headlines/>.

Afterwards, the team table quiz was hosted by four committee members, one from each university, and gave students a chance to meet and socialize in an informal setting. The event was well-received by students from each university, and we hope it continues into the next academic year.

We have all missed the ability to attend events face-to-face during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we hope that the increase in virtual seminars, conferences and networking throughout this time will continue to facilitate collaborative events in the future.

