



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the School of Computing,
Engineering and the Built Environment's
newsletter

February 2026 – Issue no 2

Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY



School of Computing,
Engineering & the
Built Environment

Introduction

Dear Reader

We had another very successful October graduation ceremony with a new personal addition by the Principal of a Gaelic blessing which was well received by all.

We are currently undergoing a University Review. In SCEBE we will be losing eight colleagues over two subject groups and from our Research community.

Meanwhile, our research is progressing well, and a healthy number of colleagues have been awarded external grants. Similarly, our publication output continues to be strong, we have excellent impact cases and we are enjoying the preparation for the REF 2029. Once again, we had positive outcomes of accreditation visits and internal reviews in 2025 and our franchise programme in Egypt with Capital University started in October.

Furthermore, the School have approval for a Joint Education College (JEC) application with Guangxi University of Science and Technology (GXUST) this September.

Our Home student numbers turned out better than expected for this year's entry, which is genuinely encouraging given the sector's traction.

In response to Industry and Partner advice we have reviewed our programme of courses and decided to let a few modules and courses lapse whilst introducing new industry focused ones. One of these is our new MSc Artificial Intelligence and Data Science programme, which is recruiting incredibly well. Happily for these times the School is confident of its growth path both in terms of student numbers and income.

Professor Peter Andras

Dean of the School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment (SCEBE)
Edinburgh Napier University

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The research within the Applied Informatics group is broad and world leading. These include Assistive and Inclusive Technologies, Communities and Creative practices, Digital Media, Experience Design, Education and Widening Participation, Human-Computer Interaction, Human-Robot Interaction, Responsible AI, Participation, Social Informatics, Sound Design, User Experience.

3	Built Environment	4
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The Built Environment group delivers world-class research in Sustainability, Architecture, surveying, and Civil Engineering. Our research projects span various areas, including sustainable design, digital construction technologies, timber engineering, smart cities, net Zero, building performance analysis, as well as, structural, environmental, hydraulic, geotechnical and transportation engineering.

4	Computer Science	4
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The Computer Science group delivers world-class research and enterprise in the areas of artificial intelligence, data science and visualisation, games development and software engineering. We are committed to driving new theory and its development into technology, while ensuring that this can be readily applied to solving the most pressing real-world problems.

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The Cybersecurity and Systems Engineering group includes expertise in complex system design and implementation, underpinned by rigorous scientific evaluation. We have expertise in many areas from electronic circuits and sensing through to large Internet-scale infrastructures. Our Cybersecurity work focuses on testing the security of these systems, developing methods for defending and protecting them, and investigating incidents (and responses) when they do occur.

6	Engineering and Mathematics	5
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The Engineering and Mathematics group has a strong research expertise in energy, materials & manufacturing, mechanical & design, mathematics & modelling, automation & robotics, and operations & production management. Our students focus on engineering practices, computing skills and principles of design relating to a wide range of mechanical and energy systems

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2. Applied Informatics

We are hosting the **21st iConference** which will be hybrid format: virtual **23 - 26 March 2026** and on-site **f29 March-02 April 2026** at Edinburgh Napier University (Craiglockhart campus).

Heliaural has received £124,000 from the Scottish Government's Proof of Concept Fund to advance personalised and real time audio calibration software for people with hearing loss and for professionals who work in sound critical environments. Software development is now progressing. The project is supported by an appointed commercial champion who is helping to explore potential routes to market.

The annual **S2 Girls STEM Inspiration Event** took place back in October 2025, aimed at empowering girls and gender minorities to choose STEM based subjects. Three interactive activities were run by colleagues at the event.

3. Built Environment

The Built Environment subject group continues to make strong progress across education, research, and industry engagement. Research excellence remains a core strength, with the Bio-based Construction Research Team developing an innovative bamboo–timber floor system that supports resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact. The Wood Science and Technology research group contributed to nationally significant work on **priority tree species for Scotland**, with related research showcased at the **V&A Museum in London**.

The group continues to demonstrate strong professional standing through successful reaccreditation of Civil Engineering and Civil & Transportation Engineering programmes by the Joint Board of Moderators (JBM), alongside RICS reaccreditation visits for surveying and construction programmes, with outcomes awaited. Individual staff achievements include Dr Timothy Olawumi's recognition among the world's top 2% most-cited scientists, **Professor Adrian Davis's award of a Bazalgette Professorship** for national health impact, and Dr Mark Taylor's contribution to the development of ISO/DTS 22270:2025 in mechanical vibration measurement.

4. Computer Science

The year in the Computer Science subject group was successful. New grants were awarded to a number of colleagues in Software Engineering and Artificial Intelligence, enabling us to bring in exciting new researchers on fixed-term contracts. We will also soon be welcoming a new permanent member of staff who will help deliver on our ambition to teach in all three semesters on-campus for postgraduate students. This new post is based on our new MSc in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, which only launched in September but is already one of the largest MSc programmes in the School. There were a number of successful promotion applications, as we continue to develop our give our existing colleagues the time and space to follow their research passions. In the summer, we will have our second PlusEquals5, our innovative forum for bringing industry and academia together, to inform our long-term teaching plans.

5. Cyber Security and Systems Engineering

Over the past year, the Cyber Security and System Engineering (CSSE) subject group has actively worked to improve both our research and teaching, which has been recognised with our new research grants, high-impact publications, and awards. These recognitions included team naming among Stanford's Top 2% of Cited Scientists worldwide, and our work on Digital Twins ranking 71st worldwide (top 0.45%) by ScholarGPS. Moreover, our visibility has also increased with more than 100 invited talks and various workshops organised at leading international conferences. Additionally, we established highly successful cybersecurity spinouts, such as TrueDeploy, which received the Best Cybersecurity Start-up Award at the Scottish Cyber Awards. All of these are now providing an even stronger foundation for the upcoming years to scale our research, engagement and impact.

6. Engineering and Mathematics

Industry feedback highlighted the need for strong alignment between curriculum content, placements, and workplace skills, with a work-based learning module currently in development. Discussion on AI in the workplace noted that both industry and academia are waiting for leadership on integration into education. AI was viewed as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for human thinking, with critical thinking, verification of outputs, and adaptability identified as essential student skills.

Opportunities for research collaboration were discussed at our latest IAB, including Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, with financial viability recognised as a key factor. Industry engagement emphasised the value of site visits over guest lectures and strong support for a new 30-week, credit-bearing engineering placement launching in 2026. Significant skills gaps were reported across manufacturing, life sciences, and defence, with high demand for versatile graduates. Defence sector insights highlighted major investment, large-scale recruitment challenges, and strong potential employment opportunities for engineering graduates.

7. Graduate Apprenticeships

We are one of Scotland's biggest providers of Graduate Apprenticeships. Earn while you learn. Develop vital industry skills in a paid job whilst studying for a university degree. For more information visit www.napier.ac.uk/apprenticeships. Or email us at GA@napier.ac.uk.



8. Dates for your diary

We are excited to be hosting SCEBE's annual Exhibition for the 5th year running. It will run on 12th-14th May 2026 in the Glassroom at **Merchiston Campus** and this year's focus is "Micro to Macro". We'll be showcasing our research and teaching work in a 'hands on' way to give visitors the chance to engage with the exhibits and are welcoming audiences from local schools and colleges, industrial partners and the local community. For more information, please email scebeevents@napier.ac.uk.

Formula Student Team Napier will be displaying their engineering design work in the creation of their formula-style race car to ultimately compete in the IMechE Formula Student competition. You can meet members of the team and view the car at Merchiston on 22nd April 2026.

We will be hosting the **iConference 2026** at **Craiglockhart** on 29th March-2nd April 2026. Enquiries: iconference2026@napier.ac.uk

6th Annual Solar & Wind Power Conference – 10th-12th June at Merchiston.

Keep up to date with our latest news:

[School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment webpage](#)
[School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment blog](#)



Edinburgh Napier University's SCEBE



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We appreciate any feedback regarding our newsletter. Your comments help us to improve, and we are eager to hear what you think. You can provide feedback via email sceberesearch@napier.ac.uk