

# Megan Briers

✉ [mrb21@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:mrb21@st-andrews.ac.uk)    [MegBriers](#)    <https://www.linkedin.com/in/megan-briers/>

## Education

Sep 2018 – Jun 2022	<b>University of St Andrews</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BSc (Hons) Computer Science and Mathematics - First Class</li><li>• Deans List for Academic Excellence 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022</li><li>• Dissertation topic : <i>Network Analysis of 19th century Mathematicians and Philosophers</i></li><li>• Modules include : Topics in the History of Mathematics, Databases, Mathematical Statistics</li></ul>
Sep 2012 – 2018	<b>Balwearie High School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dux proxime accessit award</li><li>• Straight A student (3 Advanced Highers, 5 Highers, 7 National 5s)</li></ul>

## Research Experience

May 2022 - Jun 2022	<b>Archive Research Assistant</b> <i>University of St Andrews</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Travelled to archives across the UK to assess material for the Gravitational Constant project jointly run between University of St Andrews and the University of Bonn. The project is looking at the change in attitudes towards the gravitational constant between 1890-1910 and my job was to view and catalogue relevant archival material. The work was supervised by Dr Isobel Falconer, University of St Andrews.</li></ul>
Jul 2021 - Aug 2021	<b>Research Intern</b> <i>Funded by Royal Astronomical Society</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Awarded an Undergraduate Summary Bursary from RAS to research the 1871 solar eclipse expedition, and worked alongside another undergraduate student under the supervision of Dr Deborah Kent, University of St Andrews.</li><li>• Article detailing findings was published in <i>Astronomy &amp; Geophysics</i>, available <a href="#">here</a>.</li></ul>
Dec 2020 - Jan 2021, Feb 2021 - May 2021, Mar 2022 - May 2022	<b>Undergraduate Research Intern</b> <i>University of St Andrews</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In my first research assistant (RA) role I focused on levels of achievement in Mathematics and Science in the Edinburgh Local Examinations in the 1860s and 70s, collating the marks of candidates in these exams and providing preliminary analysis of the data collected. It was supervised by Dr Isobel Falconer.</li><li>• In my second RA role I transcribed Simon Newcomb's diary from his 1860 expedition into the zone of totality in North America to collect information on the solar eclipse, resulting in an upcoming publication in <i>Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage</i>. It was supervised by Dr Kent.</li><li>• In my third RA role, I worked independently with archive materials to categorise and photograph the population and sea temperature data collected by D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson in the early 20th century. I created code in Python to replicate mathematical methods used in this analysis. The work was supervised by Dr Kent.</li></ul>

## Additional History Experience

---

Jan 2022 - May 2022	<b>STEP Module : Curious St Andrews</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Helped to develop the Curious St Andrews social media as part of my modules, working to create and promote historical research as easily digestible infographics. Content available on our <a href="#">Instagram</a>.</li><li>Presented my research to the STEP conference on the development of the University of St Andrews across the 19th century, and videos produced for a subsequent exhibition is available on our <a href="#">Youtube</a></li></ul>
Jun 2021 - Jul 2021	<b>Special Collections Intern</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Involved in tracking down documents owned by The Very Rev John Lee, principal of University College in the 19th century.</li><li>The internship took place virtually, working from the online sales records, with a chance to interact with the materials in person at the end of the internship.</li><li>Produced a <a href="#">blog post</a> detailing the experience on the Special Collections Blog site.</li></ul>
Jun 2021 - Jul 2021	<b>Member of Women Historians in St Andrews STEP Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Member of the Women Historians of St Andrews team where we researched into the history of the presence of women in the history department of the University.</li><li>Output included a <a href="#">blog post</a> discussing a 'day in the life' of a female history student at St Andrews in 1960, based on University calendar data and information from visits to the archives.</li><li>Used technology (specifically Python) to create a <a href="#">blog post</a> analysing home towns of female graduates listed in the the university calendars across the 20th century.</li></ul>

## Computer Science Experience

---

Apr 2022	<b>Hack:Darwin Participant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attended the Hack Darwin Hackathon hosted by the University of Cambridge's Digital Humanities department. Worked in a small team to create a NLP tool that predicted characteristics of the letters written and received by Darwin. Code can be viewed <a href="#">here</a>, and our presentation <a href="#">here</a>.</li></ul>
Apr 2020 - Apr 2020	<b>J.P.Morgan Spring Intern</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Was one of a handful of interns on the J.P.Morgan Spring into Technology week. Using a variety of languages and environments, we learnt about coding for financial markets and how to write secure code to prevent cyber attacks.</li></ul>
Jun 2019 - Aug 2019	<b>Programming and Coding Workshop Assistant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Working in Massachusetts at URJ Six Points Sci Tech Academy.</li><li>Assisted in the Programming and Coding workshop, helping kids to learn the basics of programming and then develop apps using Swift. Learnt Swift on the job, while also being in the position of locus parentis for a hall of children.</li></ul>

### Languages and frameworks familiar with:

- Fluent with Python, Java and R
- Intermediate experience with Swift, C, SQL/PHP and Spring
- Developing knowledge in web development using Python

Code produced as part of my research work and my degree can be viewed on my [Github](#).