

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to apply for a place on the HPC Autumn Academy course that takes place this September. I am currently finishing my PhD in the field of computational statistics, and will shortly be taking up a post-doctoral Research Fellowship position at UCL within the CoMPLEX group.

My research focuses on developing advanced Markov Chain Monte Carlo methods for performing Bayesian Inference over a wide range of computationally challenging statistical models, mainly used to describe and predict the behaviour of complex biological processes (such as cellular circadian rhythms in plants).

Until now I have done all my programming in Matlab, however it is becoming clear to me that in order to tackle much larger systems it will be necessary to consider lower level languages and incorporate greater parallelisation. This HPC course therefore appears to be very well suited to my current needs.

My PhD supervisor is Prof. Mark Girolami (Head of Computational Statistics, UCL) and he fully supports my application for this course, however he has not had the time to write a formal letter of support. Should this be necessary, I could obtain such a letter towards the end of next week and forward it to you.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Best regards,

Ben Calderhead