

## First APTS Advisory Committee meeting

Warwick, 13 September 2007

## Agenda

**Format:** brief presentations, each followed by discussion.

1: Introduction

2: Programme

3: Procedures

4: Administration

5: AOB

## Introduction

**Academy for PhD Training in Statistics**  
EPSRC  
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

A national programme of four intensive training weeks aimed at first-year PhD students in statistics and applied probability

- 10-14 Dec '07: University of Warwick**  
 Statistical Computing (S N Wood)  
 Statistical Inference (D R Cox and D Firth)
- 7-11 Apr '08: University of Oxford**  
 Statistical Modelling (A C Davison and J J Forster)  
 Statistical Inference (G A Young)
- 7-11 Jul '08: University of Bristol**  
 Applied Stochastic Processes (W S Kendall)  
 Computationally-intensive Statistical Methods (B D Ripley)
- 1-5 Sep '08: University of Glasgow**  
 Spatial and Longitudinal Data Analysis (P J Diggle)  
 Nonparametric Smoothing (A Delaigle)

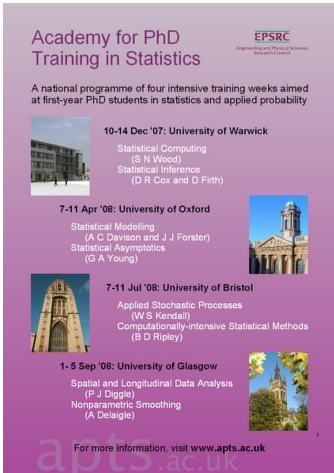
For more information, visit [www.aps.ac.uk](http://www.aps.ac.uk)

**APTS** began in a collaboration of nine UK statistics research groups to organise courses nationally for first-year statistics PhD students. Funded by EPSRC for first five years of operation.

**Intention:** to provide courses which will be attractive and relevant to the research preparation and background education of all UK PhD students in statistics and probability. Also open to students from institutions outside the UK.

1: Introduction 00● 2: Programme 0000 3: Procedures 0000 4: Administration 0000 5: AOB

## Introduction (continued)



**Academy for PhD Training in Statistics**  
EPSRC  
 A national programme of four intensive training weeks aimed at first-year PhD students in statistics and applied probability

10-14 Dec '07: University of Warwick  
 Statistical Computing (S N Wood)  
 Statistical Inference (D R Cox and D Firth)

7-11 Apr '08: University of Oxford  
 Statistical Modelling (A C Davison and J J Forster)  
 Statistical Asymptotics (G A Young)

7-11 Jul '08: University of Bristol  
 Applied Stochastic Processes (W S Kendall)  
 Computationally-intensive Statistical Methods (B D Ripley)

1-5 Sep '08: University of Glasgow  
 Spatial and Longitudinal Data Analysis (P J Diggle)  
 Nonparametric Smoothing (A Delaigle)

For more information, visit [www.pts.ac.uk](http://www.pts.ac.uk)

**How we got here:**

06/01/06 EPSRC Taught Course call  
 07/03/06 Nine institutions based on attendance at EPSRC workshop  
 19/05/06 APTS proposal submitted  
 Sep 06 APTS funded: UKP362k  
 08/12/06 Two Exec Committees later  
 27/04/07 (plus *many* email votes):  
 Constitution  
 Programme:  
 modules, speakers, locations  
 30/03/07 Call for Member Institutions  
 13/09/07 **First Advisory Committee**

[pts.ac.uk](http://pts.ac.uk)

1: Introduction 00● 2: Programme 0000 3: Procedures 0000 4: Administration 0000 5: AOB

## Rôle of Advisory Committee

- to advise the Executive Committee (EC) on all matters relating to the direction and organisation of APTS;
- to represent views of and feedback from users;
- to assist in dissemination of information about APTS;
- to elect two representatives to serve two-year terms on EC.

**Member Institutions:**  
 expected to use APTS as core element of first-year training of statistics research students; to make use of at least  $\min(8, 2n)$  units (1 unit = 1 student-week) of participation during the membership year, where  $n$  is number of first-year research students who could reasonably benefit from APTS.

[pts.ac.uk](http://pts.ac.uk)

1: Introduction 000 2: Programme 0000 3: Procedures 0000 4: Administration 0000 5: AOB

1: Introduction

2: Programme

3: Procedures

4: Administration

5: AOB

[pts.ac.uk](http://pts.ac.uk)

## The APTS programme

- Broad aims:
    - equip students with clear 'mental map' of some important areas
    - help students gain confidence and resources (analytical and computing tools, literature entry-points) to find out more for themselves.
  - (same) 8 modules each year
  - each module has
    - preliminary work (~ 1 week)
    - 10 hours intensive work during 'APTS week'
    - follow-up 'assessment' materials (exercises/miniproject/essay, ~ 0.5 week)
- Full module specifications on web site.
- 4 APTS weeks per year, locations vary

[apts.ac.uk](http://apts.ac.uk)

## Programme for 2007–2008

- 10–14 December 2007, Warwick
  - Statistical Computing (S N Wood)
  - Statistical Inference (D R Cox and D Firth)
- 7–11 April 2008, Oxford
  - Statistical Modelling (A C Davison and J J Forster)
  - Statistical Asymptotics (G A Young)
- 7–11 July 2008, Bristol
  - Applied Stochastic Processes (W S Kendall)
  - Computationally-intensive Statistical Methods (B D Ripley)
- 1–5 September 2008, Glasgow
  - Spatial and Longitudinal Data Analysis (P J Diggle)
  - Nonparametric Smoothing (A Delaigle)

[apts.ac.uk](http://apts.ac.uk)

## Pre-requisites

- each module spec lists pre-requisite knowledge
- preliminary 'web lectures' will cover/revise a specified subset of the pre-requisites

A particular pre-requisite not covered in APTS itself is some knowledge of *statistical computing*:

- elementary knowledge of the use of R (APTS weeks 1, 2, 4)
- basic knowledge of *programming* in a high-level language such as R (APTS week 3)

Guidance will be made available soon (via the website) about materials suitable for teaching and/or self-study on R.

[apts.ac.uk](http://apts.ac.uk)

1: Introduction  
ooo

2: Programme  
ooo●

3: Procedures  
oooo

4: Administration  
oooo

5: AOB

## Assessment

- requirements of different departments, for PhD student monitoring, vary widely
- APTS will not assess students
- the follow-up 'assessment' task for each module may be used as part of the procedure for monitoring student progress, if the student's department so wishes

apts.ac.uk

1: Introduction  
ooo

2: Programme  
oooo

3: Procedures  
oooo

4: Administration  
oooo

5: AOB

1: Introduction

2: Programme

3: Procedures

4: Administration

5: AOB

apts.ac.uk

1: Introduction  
ooo

2: Programme  
oooo

3: Procedures  
●ooo

4: Administration  
oooo

5: AOB

## APTS procedures: timeline

●	17th Sep	Student registration opens
●	15th Oct	Student registration closes
●	22nd Oct	Signatures from academic contacts required
●	29th Oct	100% cancellation deadline
●	12th Nov	50% cancellation deadline Invoices sent to sending institutions
●	10th Dec	APTS week (Warwick)

apts.ac.uk

## Student registration process

- Registration is open from **17th Sep to 15th Oct**
- Student registration can only be carried out by registered 'sending institutions'
  - Member Institutions are automatically sending institutions
- The academic contact for each institution will be emailed a password granting access to the student **registration form**:
  - this should be filled out once for each student to be registered
  - completion of the form **does not guarantee** that a student can be allocated a place on any given APTS week
  - when registration closes, each academic contact will be sent details of which of their students have been accepted for each week — a copy of this needs to be signed and returned to APTS by **22nd Oct**

- open in principle to all PhD students (all years, all disciplines)
- if APTS week over-subscribed, priorities:
  - first-year stats/probability students
  - EPSRC-funded students
  - students from Member Institutions
  - students taking all 4 weeks

## Financial process



- All financial transactions with individual APTS students, including travel expense claims, will be between the sending institution and the student
- If you wish to cancel any registrations, do so early! Accommodation/food charges (but *not* registration fees) refund policy:
  - 100% refund if you cancel at least 6 weeks before APTS week
  - 50% refund if you cancel 4-6 weeks before APTS week
  - no refund within 4 weeks of APTS week
- Sending institutions will be invoiced by APTS for registration fee, and accommodation/meal costs in the case of non-EPSRC students
  - this will happen **4 weeks before each APTS week**

1: Introduction  
ooo

2: Programme  
oooo

3: Procedures  
oooo

4: Administration  
oooo

5: AOB

1: Introduction

2: Programme

3: Procedures

4: Administration

5: AOB

aps.ac.uk

1: Introduction  
ooo

2: Programme  
oooo

3: Procedures  
oooo

4: Administration  
●ooo

5: AOB

## Administrative matters

Finance:

- APTS has money from EPSRC to support EPSRC first-year statistics PhD students: contributing to accommodation, subsistence, travel.
- Other students have to be supported by the sending institution as part of training.
- Sending institutions pay registration fees for all students (see web-page).
- We will establish an “APTS account” for each sending institution as a financial device to implement this.

aps.ac.uk

1: Introduction  
ooo

2: Programme  
oooo

3: Procedures  
oooo

4: Administration  
●ooo

5: AOB

## Administrative matters (continued)

Limits on numbers:

- Capacity limits constrain the size of attendance at each APTS week (provisionally 60).
- The original proposal estimated (guessed!) potential attendance at an upper bound of 30 EPSRC and 30 other first-year statistics PhD students.
- The Member Institution registration exercise has generated an evidence-based prediction: 30 EPSRC and 40 other first-year statistics PhD students.
- **Conclusions:**
  - (i) problems of success!
  - (ii) register your own students early!

aps.ac.uk

## Administrative matters (continued)

- EPSRC requires that we move over the period of the grant towards long-term sustainability.
- Expect therefore to see fees rising next year and in consequent years as we move towards self-sufficiency.
- We value your feedback on this and all other APTS matters.

## Administrative matters: election

Election of two Member Institution representatives to Executive Committee, each for a 2-year term.

- This entails attendance at the annual meeting of the APTS Executive Committee (in the coming year this is likely to be at Warwick in January 2008),
- and participation in occasional email debate about APTS matters.

- 1: Introduction
- 2: Programme
- 3: Procedures
- 4: Administration
- 5: AOB