Paper for 3. APTS year 15 (2021-2022): Summary report to Executive Committee

Preliminary: some summary counts for all years 2007–2022

Numbers of students who attended at least one APTS week (of which, EPSRC-funded in brackets). Note 2019-20 is the attendance for week 1 only, due to the cancellation of weeks 2–4. The number of participants due to attend weeks 1–4 was 184:

2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
88 (38)	88 (37)	100 (45)	90 (37)	128 (46)	129 (40)	147 (40)	149 (42)	130 (47)

2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
155	174	176	141	255	216

Number of APTS lecturers to date: 36

Number of APTS-week host institutions to date: 11 (remaining at 11 this year).

Member Institutions

In 2021-2022 there were 26 MIs, all located in the UK and Ireland.

APTS weeks, academic year 2021-2022

Week 1, 13-17 December, 2021, Warwick:

- *Statistical Computing* (Darren Wilkinson)
- *Statistical Inference* (Simon Shaw)

Week 2, 04-08 April, 2022, Durham:

- *Applied Stochastic Processes* (Nicholas Georgiou and Matt Roberts)
- *Statistical Modelling* (Helen Ogden)

Week 3, 04-08 July, 2022, Nottingham:

- *Computer Intensive Statistics* (Paul Jenkins and Richard Everitt)
- *High-dimensional Statistics* (Yi Yu)

Week 4, 15-19 August, 2022, Glasgow:

- *Statistical Machine Learning* (Louis Aslett)
- *Design of Experiments & Studies* (Dave Woods)

Registrations

A total of 224 unique students were registered to attend one or more APTS week in 2021-2022. Numbers of registrations for each of the four weeks were 135, 159, 142, 147, respectively. The corresponding attendance figures were 135, 151, 129, 131, respectively.

Of those 224 students:

- 77 were registered to attend all 4 weeks and 66 students actually did so.
- 148 were first year students in statistics or probability.
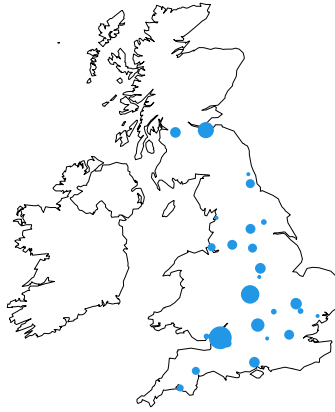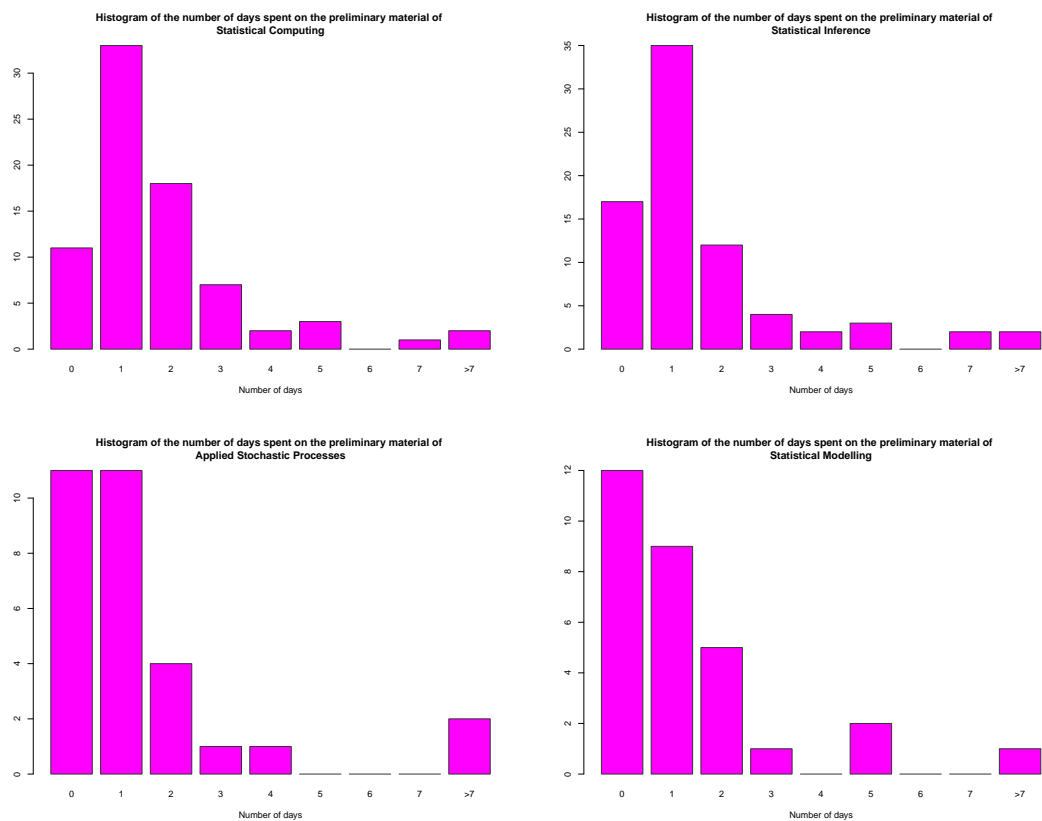- APTS Member Institutions supplied 166 of the 224 applications.

Figure 1: UK 2021-2022 Registrations (from institutions supplying UK postal codes)
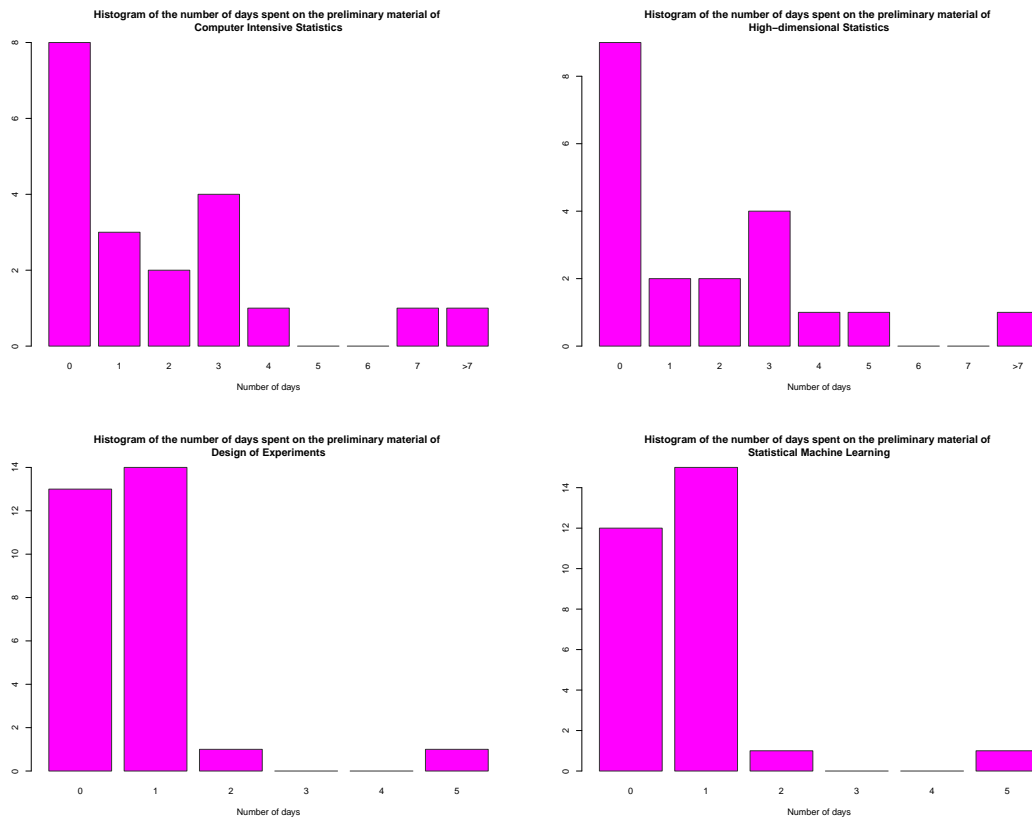
Student feedback

The following summarizes student responses to an anonymous questionnaire completed at the end of the online APTS Weeks 1-4.

A. Preparation for APTS

1. Roughly, how many days did you spend on the preliminary material?

Histogram of the number of days spent on the preliminary material of Computer Intensive Statistics

Histogram of the number of days spent on the preliminary material of High–dimensional Statistics

Histogram of the number of days spent on the preliminary material of Design of Experiments

Histogram of the number of days spent on the preliminary material of Statistical Machine Learning

2. Did the preliminary material help you to understand the lectures this week?

	Yes	No	Didn't use
Statistical Computing	66	2	9
Statistical Inference	56	7	14
Applied Stochastic Processes	19	0	11
Statistical Modelling	18	0	12
Computer Intensive Statistics	11	0	9
High-dimensional Statistics	8	2	10
Statistical Machine Learning	19	0	10
Design of Experiments & Studies	17	1	11

B. The APTS week: material covered

1. How would you rate the level of the module lectures?

	Too easy	About right	Too hard
Statistical Computing	5	62	10
Statistical Inference	7	55	15
Applied Stochastic Processes	2	17	11
Statistical Modelling	5	24	1
Computer Intensive Statistics	1	17	2
High-dimensional Statistics	0	7	13
Statistical Machine Learning	2	27	0
Design of Experiments & Studies	3	25	1

2. Did the Oxford R lectures help you with the computer sessions during the week?

	Yes	No	Didn't use
Week 1	23	6	48
Week 2	5	2	23
Week 3	4	0	16
Week 4	3	2	24

3. Did you find the computer sessions/classes helpful?

	Yes	No	Didn't attend
Statistical Computing	64	6	7
Statistical Modelling	24	4	2
Computer Intensive Statistics	16	0	4
Statistical Machine Learning	24	1	4
Design of Experiments & Studies	21	3	5

4. Will you do the module assessments?

	Yes, required to	Yes, though not required	No
Week 1	28	23	26
Week 2	5	4	17
Week 3	6	1	12
Week 4	6	2	20

Student costs 2021–22

The following table summarizes the invoices received by APTS sending institutions for the four APTS weeks.

APTS week	Registration fees	Accommodation and food
Week1	£22,950	£29,720
Week2	£26,520	£39,750
Week3	£23,970	£55,790
Week4	£14,076	£38,080
TOTAL	£87,516	£163,340

Note: Registration fee discounts for students attending all four weeks are all deducted from the final week.

Summary of APTS Alumni Questionnaire Responses (2018–19 Cohort)

Number of respondents: 49

1. What best describes your current status?

   ```
   other (please specify): 2
   still studying for PhD: 25
   working in academia as statistical scientist: 12
   working in academia in another role: 4
   working in industry as statistical scientist: 2
   working in industry in another role: 4
   ```

   Of those answering other:

   ```
    Looking for work
    Research Associate at King's College London
    still studying PhD, but mainly a consultant managing data in development and public health
   ```

2. Which of the APTS weeks did you attend in 2017–18? (specify as many as is appropriate)*

   ```
   Week 1: Statistical Inference & Statistical Computing: 38
   Week 2: Applied Stochastic Processes & Statistical Modelling: 32
   Week 3: Computer Intensive Statistics & High-dimensional Statistics: 34
   Week 4: Design of Experiments and Studies & Flexible Regression: 26
   ```

3. Which of the APTS modules ended up connected closely to your eventual PhD research? (specify as many as is appropriate)

   ```
   Applied Stochastic Processes: 10
   Computer Intensive Statistics: 20
   Design of Experiments and Studies: 3
   Flexible Regression: 14
   High-dimensional Statistics: 11
   Statistical Computing: 25
   Statistical Inference: 16
   Statistical Modelling: 22
   ```

4. Has the training given by APTS proved helpful to you in your PhD experience and research?

   ```
   Yes 42 (86%) No 7 (14%)
   ```

5. Has the training given by APTS proved helpful to you in your present employment? (answer only if you are not still working for your PhD)

   ```
   Yes 16 (55%) No 13 (45%)
   ```

6. If your answer to either of the previous two questions was yes, which of the following reasons underlie your recommendation? (specify as many as is appropriate)

   ```
   APTS weeks enable broader contacts with more senior academics: 9
   APTS weeks enable networking with peers: 32
   The modules provide a broad general training in the area: 32
   ```

   Further details supplied by those answering other:

```
The hands on practical modules really helped.
```

7. Which of the APTS modules ended up connected closely to your current employment? (specify as many as is appropriate, answer only if you are not still working for your PhD)

```
Applied Stochastic Processes: 4
Computer Intensive Statistics: 7
Design of Experiments and Studies: 3
Flexible Regression: 6
High-dimensional Statistics: 5
Statistical Computing: 10
Statistical Inference: 11
Statistical Modelling: 12
```

8. Would you recommend APTS to someone just starting a PhD in applied probability or statistics?*

```
Yes 47 (96%) No 2 (4%)
```

Additional Notes

1. Current status of those who *would not* recommend APTS:

   ```
   working in academia as statistical scientist: 1
   working in academia in another role: 1
   ```

2. Current status of those who *did not* find APTS useful for their PhD:

   ```
   still studying for PhD: 3
   working in academia as statistical scientist: 1
   working in academia in another role: 1
   working in industry as statistical scientist: 1
   working in industry in another role: 1
   ```

Additional Comments

1. APTS is great even for a student without strong statistical background and on an interface between academia and industry with many interdisciplinary problems. Specifically ability to deep-dive over short period of time is ideal for people with such busy schedule.

2. Firstly, I did really value to the connection with peers that attending APTS (in real life pre-pandemic) brought - being able to meet others who are also in the process of finding their research feet in the early stages of the PhD is very reassuring and brings a good sense of perspective. This is even more important for those coming from universities where they do not have a large peer group in statistics (as was the case for me). In some way I think it even helped me get through the pandemic, despite all the APTS courses being before that.

   Secondly, looking back now, I really appreciate the exposure that APTS gave me to a broad base of topics in statistics. Not all of it necessarily sunk in, but I think that having a better awareness of the scale of the field that you're studying in is very useful in the early stages of the PhD. APTS went a long way to stopping me from purely developing tunnel vision for my exact area of research during the course of the PhD, and talking to people working in such a diverse range of topics (and who've come from across the world!) was a genuinely kind of magical eye-opening experience for me. I'm a fan of APTS!

3. I completed a PhD in biological sciences/quantitative ecology and came at the APTS courses from a biological background. As such, the more practical modules (e.g., flexible regression) were of some use in my research, although most of the practical material in these was familiar. I can see how the courses would be useful and interesting to students with a heavily mathematical or statistical background though.

4. Thanks for help and support

5. APTS training is a pleasant and helpful experience for me.

6. My only regret is not taking all four weeks! It was a really great experience overall.

7. I would recommend the training provided by APTS to other entry-level statisticians. All four sessions I attended were well-organized and the lecturers were good at explaining things.

8. APTS was a strong program, and it made me feeling like a member of a broader UK Statistics community. I strongly encourage its continuity and expansion.

9. Really excellent and valuable week.

10. In my case, I didn't find the APTS courses helpful because they were too condensed. Don't get me wrong, please. The lecturers and the whole structure were great, but a week long course on, for example, stochastic process isn't enough. It would take me a week just to understand (not necessarily solve it, though) one exercise of stochastic process.

    Again, the idea and the people behind the APTS (lecturers and organisers) were great, but I don't think the APTS courses helped me during my PhD.

11. Wonderful course, looks great on the CV, very good background to statistics, provided vital peer connections.

<div align="right">Warwick, September 14, 2022</div>

Registration for APTS

Student registration for APTS academic year 2021-22 opens on Friday 24th September 2021, and **closes on Friday 29th October 2021**. Registration applications made after that date will be kept in a priority-ordered reserve list, in case of any cancellations.

** Alternative delivery **

There is a possibility that one or more of the APTS weeks planned for 2021/22 may not be able to go ahead as a face-to-face event. If we are unable to have sufficient confidence that an APTS week can proceed safely (APTS reserves the right to make this assessment at its sole discretion) then all reasonable attempts will be made to ensure that an online alternative will run in its place. This is expected to take the form of recorded video lectures covering equivalent content, as well as the accompanying written materials (preliminary reading, lecture notes, and assessments). There will also be opportunities for live online interaction with the module leader and other participants, the exact nature of which will vary depending on what is most appropriate for the content of the module, but may take the form of problem classes or guided computer practicals over video conferencing software. Should an APTS week be replaced by a "virtual" alternative then no accommodation/meal costs will be charged to a student's sending institution. The original registration fee for the APTS week, which covers administrative and delivery costs that will not be lessened by such a cancellation, will still be levied and will be subject to the usual Billing and Cancellation policy.

Students can only be registered for APTS weeks by their "sending institution" (i.e., their home department): a list of these institutions appears below.

- If your department wishes to register as a sending institution, then please click here;
- If your department wishes to commit to being a full Member Institution of APTS, then please click here. (All Member Institutions are automatically "sending institutions".)

If your department is included in the list below, the APTS contact (who must be a member of academic staff employed by that institution) will be provided with a password enabling them to complete the student registration form for 2020-21 APTS weeks. (The student registration form also gives full information on cost.)

The principles and practicalities of student registration and payments include:

- date of application within the registration period is unimportant --- it is not used in determining the allocation of APTS places to students (see the APTS Constitution for the list of priorities)
- sending institutions are invoiced by APTS for the registration fee, and for accommodation/meal costs, of their students who are allocated APTS places
- in the case of a student taking all four APTS weeks in the same academic year a 20% rebate of registration fees (20% of 4 x £170) is made
- all financial transactions with individual APTS students, including those relating to travel expenses, are handled by the sending institution

Please see the FAQ, the Billing and Cancellation policy, and the Privacy notice for more specific information, and the list of prerequisites if you are in any doubt as to whether APTS would be suitable for a particular student.

List of sending institutions

List of sending institutions	APTS contact
Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland	Glenn Marion
Canterbury Christ Church University: The Business School	Prodromos Tsinaslanidis
Cardiff University: School of Mathematics	Anatoly Zhigljavsky
Durham University: Dept of Mathematical Sciences	Tahani Coolen-Maturi
European Molecular Biology Laboratory: European Bioinformatics Institute	Nick Goldman
Imperial College London: Department of Mathematics	Nick Heard
Keele University: School of Computing and Mathematics	Jie Cheng
Keele University: School of Medicine	Ivonne Solis-Trapala
Lancaster University: Department of Management Science	Juliana Sutanto
Lancaster University: Dept of Maths and Statistics	Dmitry Korshunov
Lancaster University: School of Health and Medicine	Benjamin Taylor
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Ruth Keogh
Loughborough University: School of Business and Economics	Nikos Argyris
Maynooth University: Department of Mathematics and Statistics	Andrew Parnell
Newcastle University: Dept of Mathematics and Statistics	Colin Gillespie
Northumbria University: Department of Mathematics and Information Sciences	Pete Philipson
Nottingham Trent University: Department of Mathematics and Statistics	Golnaz Shahtahmassebi
Open University: Dept of Mathematics and Statistics	Kaustubh Adhikari
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland: Data Science Center	Fiona Boland
The Francis Crick Institute	Peter Van Loo
Trinity College Dublin: Statistics Group	Simon Wilson
University College Dublin: Statistics Group	Brendan Murphy
University College London: Dept of Statistical Science	Paul Northrop
University of Bath: Dept of Mathematical Sciences	Simon Shaw
University of Birmingham: School of Mathematics	Biman Chakraborty
University of Bristol: Dept of Mathematics-Statistics Group	Mathieu Gerber
University of Bristol: School of Geographical Sciences	Levi John Wolf
University of Cambridge: CRI	John Marioni
University of Cambridge: MRC Biostatistics Unit	Thomas Jaki
University of Cambridge: Statistical Laboratory	Sergio Bacallado
University of Cape Town: Department of Statistical Sciences	Freedom Gumedze
University of Edinburgh: MRC Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine	Ailith Ewing
University of Edinburgh: School of Mathematics	Finn Lindgren
University of Essex: Department of Mathematical Sciences	Hongsheng Dai
University of Exeter: College of Eng Maths and Phys Sci	Chris Ferro
University of Glasgow: Statistics	Nema Dean
University of Kent: IMSAS	Jian Zhang
University of Leeds: Dept of Statistics	Jan Palczewski
University of Leeds: Institute of Clinical Trials Research	Deborah Stocken
University of Limerick: Dept of Mathematics and Statistics	Peg Hanrahan
University of Liverpool: Department of Biostatistics	Girvan Burnside
University of Liverpool: Dept of Mathematical Sciences	Kamila Zychaluk
University of Manchester: School of Mathematics	Peter Foster
University of Nottingham: School of Mathematical Sciences	Philip O'Neill
University of Oxford, MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine	Valentina Iotchkova
University of Oxford: Department of Computer Science	Jim Davies

University of Oxford: Dept of Statistics	Garrett Morris
University of Oxford: Nuffield Department of Population Health	Thomas Nichols
University of Oxford: Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics	Julian Knight
University of Plymouth: School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics	Julian Stander
University of Reading: Department of Mathematics and Statistics	Fazil Baksh
University of Sheffield: Health Economics and Decision Science (HEDS)	Jean Hamilton
University of Sheffield: School of Mathematics and Statistics	Kostas Triantafyllopoulos
University of Southampton: School of Mathematics	Antony Overstall
University of Southampton: School of Social Sciences	Peter Smith
University of St Andrews: School of Maths and Statistics	Len Thomas
University of Strathclyde: Department of Mathematics and Statistics	David Greenhalgh
University of Surrey: Dept of Mathematics	Janet Godolphin
University of Warwick: Dept of Statistics	Mark Steel
University of Warwick: Warwick Medical School	Deepak Parashar
University of Wolverhampton: Statistical Cybermetrics Research Group	Paul Wilson
University of York: Department of Mathematics	Stephen Connor

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Coronavirus (Covid-19): Latest updates and information

Billing and cancellation

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Billing

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Cancellation policy

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2. In the event of cancellation of a student's participation in an APTS week, the charges made for accommodation and food will be reduced by

   - **100%** if the cancellation is received **before noon of the Monday six weeks prior to the Monday of APTS week**
   - **50%** if the cancellation is received after that but **before noon of the Monday four weeks prior to the Monday of APTS week.**

   (For an APTS week starting on Tuesday or Wednesday, "the Monday of APTS week" means the preceding Monday.) After four weeks prior to an APTS week, charges relating to that APTS week are not normally refunded.

3. Occasionally it will be necessary for the named module leader to change following the initial registration period. In the event of a notification of change of module leader, if a cancellation request is made **within six weeks of the notification and prior to the relevant APTS week** then charges for registration, accommodation and food will be reduced by 100%.

4. APTS expects all participants to abide by codes of conduct of the APTS week host institutions (see APTS week informations) and reserves the unlimited right to cancel any registration without prejudice in the event of violation of said codes of conduct.

Notice of any cancellation should be sent (by the APTS Academic Contact for the student's home department, NOT by the student concerned) by email to APTS.

Online alternative

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accommodation/meal costs will be charged to a student's sending institution. The original registration fee for the APTS week, which covers administrative and delivery costs that will not be lessened by such a cancellation, will still be levied and will be subject to the usual Billing and Cancellation policy.

Force Majeure

The liability of APTS in the event of a failure or delay in the performance of its obligations under this Contract, if such performance is delayed or hindered by the occurrence of an unforeseeable act or event which is beyond its reasonable control ("Force Majeure Events") shall be limited to the reimbursement of any fees already paid in respect of obligations not performed.

Acts or events constituting Force Majeure Events shall include, but not be limited to Act of God, government intervention, or a change in the law, strikes, industrial dispute, civil unrest, riots, rebellions and wars.

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Coronavirus (Covid-19): Latest updates and information

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Aarhus University: Department of Mathematics	Asger Hobolth
Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland	Glenn Marion
Canterbury Christ Church University: The Business School	Prodromos Tsinaslanidis
Cardiff University: School of Mathematics	Anatoly Zhigljavsky
Durham University: Dept of Mathematical Sciences	Tahani Coolen-Maturi
European Molecular Biology Laboratory: European Bioinformatics Institute	Nick Goldman
Heriot-Watt University: School of Mathematical and Computer sciences	George Streftaris
Keele University: School of Computing and Mathematics	Jie Cheng
Keele University: School of Medicine	Ivonne Solis-Trapala
Lancaster University: Department of Management Science	Juliana Sutanto
Lancaster University: Dept of Maths and Statistics	Tony Nixon
Lancaster University: School of Health and Medicine	Benjamin Taylor
Lancaster University: STOR-i CDT	Jonathan Tawn
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Ruth Keogh

Loughborough University: Department of Mathematical Sciences	Axel Finke
Loughborough University: School of Business and Economics	Nikos Argyris
Maynooth University: Department of Mathematics and Statistics	Andrew Parnell
National University of Ireland, Galway: School of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Mathematics	Andrew Simpkin
Newcastle University: Dept of Mathematics and Statistics	Colin Gillespie
Northumbria University: Department of Mathematics and Information Sciences	Pete Philipson
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University College London: Dept of Statistical Science	Terry Soo
University of Bath: Dept of Mathematical Sciences	Simon Shaw
University of Birmingham: School of Mathematics	Biman Chakraborty
University of Bristol: Dept of Mathematics-Statistics Group	Mathieu Gerber
University of Bristol: School of Earth Sciences	Max Werner
University of Bristol: School of Geographical Sciences	Levi John Wolf
University of Cambridge: CRI	John Marioni
University of Cambridge: MRC Biostatistics Unit	Brian Tom
University of Cambridge: Statistical Laboratory	Sergio Bacallado
University of Cape Town: Department of Statistical Sciences	Freedom Gumedze
University of Edinburgh: MRC Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine	Ailith Ewing
University of Edinburgh: School of Mathematics	Finn Lindgren
University of Essex: Department of Mathematical Sciences	Hongsheng Dai
University of Exeter: College of Eng Maths and Phys Sci	Chris Ferro
University of Glasgow: Statistics	Nema Dean
University of Kent: IMSAS	Jian Zhang
University of Leeds: Dept of Statistics	Jan Palczewski
University of Leeds: Institute of Clinical Trials Research	Deborah Stocken
University of Limerick: Dept of Mathematics and Statistics	Peg Hanrahan
University of Liverpool: Department of Biostatistics	Girvan Burnside
University of Liverpool: Dept of Mathematical Sciences	Kamila Zychaluk
University of Manchester: School of Mathematics	Korbinian Strimmer
University of Nottingham: School of Mathematical Sciences	Riccardo Corradin
University of Oxford, MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine	Valentina Iotchkova
University of Oxford: Department of Computer Science	Jim Davies
University of Oxford: Dept of Statistics	Garrett Morris
University of Oxford: Nuffield Department of Population Health	Thomas Nichols
University of Oxford: Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics	Julian Knight
University of Plymouth: School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics	Julian Stander
University of Reading: Department of Mathematics and Statistics	Fazil Baksh
University of Sheffield: Health Economics and Decision Science (HEDS)	Jean Hamilton

University of Sheffield: School of Mathematics and Statistics	Kostas Triantafyllopoulos
University of Southampton: School of Mathematics	Antony Overstall
University of Southampton: School of Social Sciences	Peter Smith
University of St Andrews: School of Maths and Statistics	Len Thomas
University of Strathclyde: Department of Mathematics and Statistics	David Greenhalgh
University of Surrey: Dept of Mathematics	Janet Godolphin
University of Warwick: Dept of Statistics	Mark Steel
University of Warwick: Warwick Medical School	Deepak Parashar
University of Wolverhampton: Statistical Cybermetrics Research Group	Paul Wilson
University of York: Department of Mathematics	Stephen Connor

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Billing and cancellation

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Billing

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Cancellation policy

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Acts or events constituting Force Majeure Events shall include, but not be limited to Act of God, government intervention, or a change in the law, strikes, industrial dispute, civil unrest, riots, rebellions and wars.

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