

Agenda for APTS Advisory Committee meeting (AC18) on 12th September, 2024

Location: Online meeting via Microsoft Teams and MB1.05 Warwick Campus

Meeting Begins: 14:00

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1 Minutes of Advisory Committee meeting on 14th September 2023

The previously circulated minutes were accepted as a true record.

2 Matters arising

2.1 From Advisory Committee Meeting AC17

AC17-8: Recommendations from student feedback Actions arising from student feedback: 1. Remind lecturers to schedule breaks as appropriate in long lectures. 2. Ask host institutions to consider the timing of the Academy dinner.

These are being acted on and the APTS Programme Manager continues to liaise with local organisers of each APTS week.

AC17-9: Student grants for Durham APTS week Jochen Einbeck had stated that the week following the APTS week scheduled to take place in Durham in April 2024, the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM) would also take place in Durham (<https://maths.dur.ac.uk/iwsm2024/>). Durham had announced their plans to offer a small number of Durham summer grants to facilitate students attending both of these events.

These grants, for £300 to cover accommodation between the two events, were subsequently made available and advertised them to the cohort attending the Durham APTS week as well as to APTS alumni via LinkedIn: https://maths.dur.ac.uk/iwsm2024/ppr_awards.html.

JOCHEN EINBEECK informs us that a small handfull attended both events, and one student made use of the grant.

2.2 From Executive Committee Meeting EC18

EC18-10: Continuing APTS beyond 2026

APTS is managed on a five-yearly basis by a single institution. At the last EC meeting it was agreed that DAVE WOODS (Southampton) would chair a subcommittee to solicit bids for the management of APTS for the next five-year period, 2026–31, with the intention of a decision being made at the next EC meeting in January 2025.

DAVE has indicated that he will send a call out by the end of September, with applications by end of Nov, and he will then make a recommendation to the EC before the Jan meeting.

2.3 APTS personnel

From September 2024, DARIO SPANÒ has stepped down as APTS Co-Director and is replaced by PAUL CHLEBOUN, who continues to share the Programme Manager role with ANDI WANG. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dario for his contribution for the successful running of APTS over the last year.

3 Report of APTS 2023–2024

4 Programme for APTS 2024–2025

The following programme was reported.

1. Oxford 9–13 December, 2024
Statistical Inference. (Michael Goldstein)
Statistical Computing. (Matteo Fasiolo and Anthony Lee)
2. Durham 22–25 April, 2025*
Applied Stochastic Processes. (Nicholas Georgiou and Hugo Lo)
Statistical Modelling. (Ioannis Kosmidis)
3. Bristol 21–25 July, 2025
High-Dimensional Statistics. (Po-Ling Loh)
Computer-Intensive Statistics. (Richard Everitt and Andi Wang)
4. Southampton 1–5 September, 2025
Causal Inference. (Robin Evans and Vanessa Didelez)
Statistical Machine Learning. (Louis Aslett)

*(note four days rather than five; 21st April 2025 is Easter Monday)

The registration fee remains at £170 for 2024–25. Expected costs for each APTS week are as follows:

Location	R	RF	RAF
Oxford	170	410	750
Durham*	170	300	445
Bristol*	170	310	465
Southampton*	170	360	575

*The costs associated with these entries are provisional and are subject to adjustment for inflation for 2024–25.

5 Dates and Locations for APTS 2025–2026

The following dates and locations were reported for advanced planning purposes:

1. Oxford 15–19 December, 2025
2. Nottingham 13–17 April, 2026
3. St Andrews 20–24 July, 2026
4. Durham 7–11 September, 2026

As a reminder, it was agreed to move Applied Stochastic Processes from week 2 to week 3 and High-Dimensional Statistics from week 3 to week 2, from 2025–26 onwards.

PAUL JENKINS took this opportunity to note that previous discussions at both the AC and EC have affirmed that the current APTS timetable works well, and that holding the first APTS week of the year in December is desirable. However, few institutions are able to bid to host APTS weeks during that period, and we are reliant on the goodwill of a very small number of people. APTS Week 1 has only ever been hosted at Cambridge, Warwick, or Oxford. Institutions are kindly encouraged to place bids to host future APTS weeks with particular attention to offering weeks in December or early January if possible. The committee is reminded that host Departments are paid £1K for organizing a week. **Could discuss increasing this!**

6 Elections

6.1 Advisory Committee representative to the Executive Committee

The two-year terms of the Advisory Committee representatives to the APTS Executive Committee have come to an end. The Committee thanks BRENDAN MURPHY (UC Dublin) and JONTY ROUGIER for their service. JONTY ROUGIER has indicated that he will not be seeking re-election. Members of the committee were invited to nominate themselves for these positions.

Brendan Murphy has indicated his willingness to continue, subject to this committee's approval. To discuss: how to run an election if one takes place.

7 Student representative feedback

8 Any other business and general feedback

8.1 APTS curriculum

Time-permitting, it may be worth discussing the current APTS curriculum. Many of our modules in weeks 1–3 have recently taken on new module leaders and are not expected to change substantially over the next couple of years. But when the opportunity arises we do sometimes rotate modules, particularly for APTS week 4, which *have* had longstanding module leaders. Currently we have Statistical Machine Learning, which will have been delivered for a fifth time by LOUIS ASLETT in 2025, and Causal Inference, which is being delivered for the third time by VANESSA DIDELEZ and ROBIN EVANS. It is quite possible that any of these module leaders may wish to indicate that they plan to step down after 2025, in which case the next Executive Committee will have to decide whom to seek as new module leaders, or whether to refresh the modules all together. In anticipation of that discussion, it would be useful to have this committee's input. So: what have your experiences been with these modules? Is there any particular direction we might want to take these modules in the medium term, either in terms of its syllabus or its module leader, or are there any glaring omissions of other topics that we might want to incorporate?

8.2 Date of Next Meeting

Planned date 11th September 2025, 14:00–16:00.