

Agenda for second meeting of APTS Advisory Committee (AC2)

1400, 11 September 2008, University of Warwick
Statistics Seminar Room A 1.01, Zeeman Building (Maths and Statistics),
central campus

(coffee available from about 1330)

Welcome

Apologies: Brendan Murphy (UCD), Julian Stander (Plymouth).

1. Minutes of first meeting (13 September 2007)
2. Matters arising
3. Report on APTS 2007–2008
4. Programme for APTS 2008–2009
5. Long-term future of APTS (discussion)
6. Election of AC representative to Executive Committee
7. Any other business and general feedback

3. APTS year 1 (2007–8): Summary report to Advisory Committee

Member Institutions

In 2007–8, APTS had 22 Member Institutions (19 in UK, 3 in Ireland). All 22 have renewed their Member Institution status for 2008–9, and two new Member Institutions (both in UK) have been added during the Summer 2008 registration period.

APTS weeks, academic year 2007–8

Week 1, December 2007, Warwick:

- *Statistical Computing* (S N Wood)
- *Statistical Inference* (D R Cox and D Firth)
- Evening sessions:
 - *What Journal?*
 - *How Not to Give a Presentation*

Week 2, April 2008, Oxford:

- *Statistical Modelling* (A C Davison and J J Forster)
- *Statistical Asymptotics* (G A Young)

Week 3, July 2008, Bristol:

- *Applied Stochastic Processes* (W S Kendall)
- *Computer Intensive Statistics* (B D Ripley)
- Evening session: *Ethics of Statistical Research*

Week 4, September 2008, Glasgow:

- *Spatial and Longitudinal Data Analysis* (P J Diggle)
- *Nonparametric Smoothing* (A Delaigle)
- Evening session: *A Conversation with Don Rubin*

Registrations

All four APTS weeks were over-subscribed at the close of registration in October 2007. The target (maximum) number for each APTS week in 2007–2008 was 60 students.

Applications were received for 121 students: for the four individual APTS weeks the respective numbers applying were 92, 85, 84 and 65. Students applying to take part in *all four* APTS weeks numbered 44.

Of the 121 applications, 78 were for first-year students in statistics or probability; of those 78, 32 were EPSRC-funded. APTS Member Institutions made 112 of the 122 applications, and 109 came from within the UK.

Unsuccessful applications were held on an ordered reserve list, to be offered a place in the event of a cancellation.

Student feedback

The following summarizes student responses to an anonymous questionnaire completed at the end of each training week. The numbers here relate to APTS weeks 1–3. APTS week 4 (Glasgow) is still in the future at the time of writing this.

A. Preparation for APTS

1. Were you informed by the APTS Academic Contact at your institution of the APTS weeks for which your registration was accepted?

	Yes	No
Week 1	37	2
Week 2	45	2

2. Did you find the APTS web site useful?

	Yes	No	Didn't use
Week 1	38	1	0
Week 2	47	0	0

3. Was it clear exactly what was expected of you in the weeks leading up to this APTS week? (e.g., making travel arrangements, looking at preliminary material, registering your meal choice, etc.)

	Yes	No
Week 1	37	2
Week 2	44	3

(Item 4: qualitative information not summarized here)

5. Approximately how long did you spend on the preliminary material?

	< 1 week	1–2 weeks	> 2 weeks
Statistical Computing	33	5	1
Statistical Inference	30	9	0
Statistical Modelling	41	5	0
Statistical Asymptotics	41	4	1
Computer Intensive	31	5	0
Stochastic Processes	31	5	1

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

	Yes	No
Statistical Computing	34	3
Statistical Inference	30	8
Statistical Modelling	40	5
Statistical Asymptotics	39	6
Computer Intensive	31	6
Stochastic Processes	33	4

B. The APTS week: material covered

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

	Too easy	Just right	Too hard
Statistical Computing	1	31	6
Statistical Inference	1	31	7
Statistical Modelling	0	41	6
Statistical Asymptotics	0	29	16
Computer Intensive	2	29	5
Stochastic Processes	1	31	5

2. Did you find the computer sessions helpful?

	Yes	No	n/a
Statistical Computing	30	9	0
Statistical Modelling	41	4	2
Computer Intensive	27	7	1

3. Did you enjoy the evening session(s)?

	Yes	No	Didn't attend
Week 1	33	1	5
Week 3	17	15	3

Student costs

The following table summarizes, in aggregate form (£), the invoices received by APTS sending institutions for the four APTS weeks in 2007–8:

	Registration fees	Accommodation and food	EPSRC rebate (accom/food)	EPSRC travel allowance
Warwick	3600	13440	-6240	-1128
Oxford	3840	19180	-8960	-1487
Bristol	3900	12800	-5540	-1455
Glasgow*	2136	13980	-6610	-2511
TOTAL	13476	59400	-27350	-6581

*The amount for registration fees in Week 4 includes discounts for the 33 students who took all four APTS weeks.

Registration for APTS



Student registration for APTS in 2007-8 is now closed

Student registration opens on **22nd September 2008**, and closes (for the APTS 2008-9 academic year) at **noon on 24 October 2008**.

Students can only be registered for APTS weeks by their "sending institution" (i.e., their home department): a list of these institutions is provided 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, its APTS contact will have been provided with a password enabling him/her to complete the [student registration form](#) for 2007-8 APTS weeks. A new password will be issued in time for 2008-9 student registration.

The principles and practicalities of student registration and payments include:

- sending institutions will be invoiced by APTS for the registration fee, and for accommodation/meal costs in the case of non-EP SRC students, of students they register
- for EP SRC-funded students taking an APTS week away from home, an allowance will be made by APTS to the sending institution to cover the cost of travel
- the registration fee will be discounted in the case of a student taking all four APTS weeks in the same academic year
- all financial transactions with individual APTS students, including travel expense claims, will be between the sending institution and the student.

Please see the [FAQ](#) and the [Billing and Cancellation policy](#) for more specific information about costs.

List of sending institutions (2007-8 academic year)

INSTITUTION

Universitat Autònoma de **Barcelona**: Department of Mathematics
 University of **Bath**: Department of Mathematical Sciences, Statistics Group
 University of **Birmingham**: School of Mathematics
 University of **Bristol**: Department of Mathematics, Statistics Group
 University of **British Columbia**: Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences
 University of **Cambridge**: Statistical Laboratory, and MRC Biostatistics Unit
 Trinity College **Dublin**: Statistics Group
 University College **Dublin**: Statistics Group
 University of **Durham**: Department of Mathematical Sciences
 University of **Edinburgh**: Management School and Economics
 University of **Exeter**: School of Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics
 National University of Ireland, **Galway**: Department of Mathematics
 University of **Glasgow**: Department of Statistics

APTS CONTACT

Frederic Utzet
 Simon Wood
 Prakash N Patil
 Sean Collins
 Douw Steyn
 Richard Samworth
 John Haslett
 Brendan Murphy
 Frank Coolen
 Jonathan Crook
 Trevor Bailey
 John Newell
 Adrian Bowman

Billing and cancellation



This page gives details of the way in which the accounts of sending institutions will be handled, and of the APTS cancellation policy.

Billing

APTS will maintain an account for each sending institution. Charges made against this account will be:

- registration fee for all students
- cost of the specified accommodation and food requirements

Rebates to the account will normally be made for EPSRC-funded students. For each APTS week in which such a student actually participates, the rebates will be:

- allowance for travel cost (at cheap rail rates)
- full cost of accommodation and food

Invoices will be issued to sending institutions **28 days prior to each APTS week**, for the amounts relating to participation in that APTS week. (Registration will be charged at the full rate for APTS weeks 1-3, with the discount being applied in APTS week 4 for students taking all four weeks.)

Any amount rebated (in advance, to a sending institution) for an EPSRC-funded student who does not actually participate in the APTS week must be repaid to APTS; this will normally be done by carry-forward to the sending institution's next APTS invoice.

Cancellation policy

A statement of this policy will appear also on the form that is signed by sending institutions, to confirm their accepted registrations for APTS, immediately after the closing date for registering students.

1. Registration fees are payable for all students accepted for an APTS week, and are not normally refunded in the event of cancellation.
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**.

After four weeks prior to an APTS week, charges relating to that APTS week are not normally refunded.

Notice of any cancellation should be sent by email to admin@aps.ac.uk .

Page contact: [David Firth](#)

Last revised: Tue 17 Jul 2007

4. Programme for APTS 2008–2009

- APTS module weeks 2008-2009:
 - Warwick
Runs from Monday, 8th December to Friday, 12th December 2008.
Statistical Computing (S N Wood)
Statistical Inference (D R Cox and D Firth)
 - Southampton (starts Wednesday, ends Sunday)
Runs from Wednesday, 1st April to Sunday, 5th April 2009.
Statistical Modelling (A C Davison and J J Forster)
Statistical Asymptotics (G A Young)
 - Bath
Runs from Monday, 29th June to Friday, 3rd July 2009.
Applied Stochastic Processes (S B Connor and W S Kendall)
Computer Intensive Statistics (B D Ripley)
 - Glasgow (arrive Sunday 30 August 2009)
Runs from Monday, 31st August to Friday, 4th September 2009.
Spatial and Longitudinal Data Analysis (P J Diggle)
Nonparametric Smoothing (A Delaigle)
- Key dates:
 - Mon, 22nd September, 2008
Student registration for 2008-9 opens.
Closes at noon on 24 Oct 2008
Registration at go.warwick.ac.uk/apts/register/student (password required for completion)
Students can only be registered for APTS weeks by their “sending institution” (i.e., their home department): all Member Institutions are automatically “sending institutions”; others register at go.warwick.ac.uk/apts/register/si.
 - Billing and cancellation policy at go.warwick.ac.uk/apts/register/billing-cancellation.
- registration fee levels (set at EC January 2008): £70, 20% discount in case of each student subscribing to all four weeks.
- A preview of 2009-2010 dates:
 - Cambridge: 4-8 January 2010
 - Nottingham: 19-23 April 2010
 - Bristol: 5-9 July 2010
 - Lancaster: 6-10 September 2010
- Oxford University propose to run a course introducing R which they expect to make available in web-lecture form to APTS students. More details will be circulated when confirmed.

5. Long-term future of APTS (discussion)

EPSRC funding of APTS ceases at end of academic year 2010-2011, so we need to start thinking about follow-up. EPSRC funding subsidizes accommodation, board, travel for EPSRC students only, and contributes to lecturer preparation time (but *not* delivery) and part of administration costs.

We have no view either way on whether Warwick should continue to act as APTS “centre” after the current period of EPSRC funding.

- Unstructured discussion about structures: here are three options
 1. continue APTS as fully-funded by participating departments, charging full costs to all students?
 2. seek to re-apply for further EPSRC support? (EPSRC stated that the current funding was for “start-up”, which implies that an exceptionally strong case would need to be made for this.)
 3. re-cast the delivery method using electronic means (Web lectures)?
- Issues: how to underwrite risk, leadership (programme manager, co-directors), equivalent of EC.
- Comments on registration fee strategy. We have declared that we will raise APTS registration fees at a planned rate throughout the 4-year period, so as to ease transition beyond the current period of EPSRC funding. Comments on appropriate strategies for this would be very welcome. Bear in mind “true” cost of APTS. Here are some estimated annual figures at 2007-2008 prices.
 - module lecturers at $\pounds 8 \times 2000 = 16000$;
 - programme manager (actual time plus secretarial support) $\pounds 20000$ (more than current APTS budget, but administrative burden should not be underestimated);
 - various extras (room hire, evening sessions) $\pounds 10000$.

On a naïve computation, assuming 60 students per week and operating on the same basis as at present, total $\pounds 46000$ suggests registration fee of $\pounds 230$ per student per week, *together* with the further costs of accommodation and food and travel (currently subsidized for EPSRC students).

6. Election of AC representative to Executive committee

To replace Prakash Patil (Birmingham) P.N.Patil@bham.ac.uk, who may choose to stand again.