

## A constitution for APTS (revised January 2013)

This document sets out rules for membership of the five constituent groups of APTS, the *Academy for PhD Training in Statistics*. The five groups are:

- Students
- Member Institutions
- Advisory Committee
- Underwriting Institutions
- Executive Committee, including Director(s)

### *Students*

Registration for APTS courses will be open to research students in any discipline, and from any institution in the UK or elsewhere.

In the event of over-subscription for one or more (pairs of) APTS modules, priority for admission will be given to

- first-year research students in statistics and closely related disciplines
- students from APTS Underwriting Institutions (see below)
- students from APTS Member Institutions (see below)
- students from institutions in the UK
- students who register for all four APTS training weeks at the start of the academic year

— these filters to be applied in the stated sequence as necessary.

The term *unit of participation* will be used below to mean participation by one student in one pair of APTS modules.

### *Member Institutions*

Any university department or other recognised PhD-training institution may apply to become a Member Institution (MI) of APTS, such membership to run from October of one year to September of the next. Every Member Institution is expected to use APTS as a core element of its first-year training of statistics research students.

The *minimum* level of commitment expected of a member institution is to make use of at least  $\min(8, 2n)$  units of participation during the membership year, where  $n$  is the number of first-year research students—as declared to APTS by the institutions in October of the membership year—who could reasonably benefit from APTS courses, and to which individuals in which of years one or two of their degrees those students are likely to be ready to undertake APTS. There are two conditions for this a) the student has an IELTS average below 6.5 or has less than 5.5 in any component or b) that the student has insufficient background in the core statistical material as identified by the APTS team.

An institution which cannot make such a commitment for a particular year will normally not be a MI for that year.

The principal benefits of MI status are: automatic representation in the APTS Advisory Committee, and thereby in the Executive Committee (see below); the possibility of registering as an Underwriting Institution (see below); and the right to use APTS Member Institution status in recruitment and other publicity materials.

Any application for MI status from an institution which has failed to meet its commitment in a previous year will be considered separately by the Executive Committee (see below), which will need to be convinced that the renewed commitment is genuine.

#### *Advisory Committee*

The chief roles of the APTS Advisory Committee (AC) will be to advise the Executive Committee on all matters relating to the direction and organisation of APTS, and to be a conduit for the dissemination of information on APTS activities. The AC will normally meet once a year.

The AC will be convened by the APTS Director, and its membership will be:

- up to two students elected from and by those participating in APTS modules;
- up to two representatives from each Member Institution of APTS;
- a representative of EPSRC;
- up to two additional members co-opted by the Executive Committee to represent statisticians working outside the higher education sector.

The AC will elect up to two representatives from its membership to join the Executive Committee for a two-year term (renewable).

#### *Underwriting Institutions*

Any MI may apply to become an Underwriting Institution (UI) of APTS, such membership to run from October of one year to September of the next. Every UI maintains a subscription, at a level set by the preceding meeting of the EC, in a fund held by APTS which will be used to pay deposits for accommodation at APTS weeks in the year succeeding the year of UI membership.

In return, UIs will be given precedence when admitting students in the year succeeding, as indicated in the Section on Students above. They will elect institutions from their number to fill any vacancies arising on the APTS Executive Committee (see below); this election will be conducted by email and run by the APTS Director(s).

The UIs carry the risk that an APTS week will have to be cancelled, in which case they may lose a proportion of their subscription if a deposit is lost or if there are cancellation charges to pay. However APTS weeks will only be cancelled by consent of the Executive Committee (see below), to which UI representatives are elected.

#### *Executive Committee*

Primary responsibility for the management and direction of APTS shall rest with the Executive Committee (EC).

Membership of the EC from 2011-10-01 will be:

- the Director(s);

- additionally one nominated representative from up to eight Underwriting Institutions, elected by email by the totality of Underwriting Institutions from among their number, in elections run by the APTS Director(s). The term of an elected UI will normally be three years conditional on UI status being maintained. Elected UIs are expected to play their part in running APTS weeks;
- additionally up to two representatives elected by the Advisory Committee;
- additionally one representative of EPSRC, as an observer.

The EC will meet at least once in each calendar year of APTS operation from 2012 onwards. Any EC member if unable to attend a meeting may send a substitute.

The Directorship of APTS (from 2012-10-01) is shared by W. S. Kendall and A. Johansen. The Directorship will remain at Warwick until at least 2014-09-30, unless a majority of the full EC membership at one of its meetings supports a formal motion to the contrary.

All of these arrangements will be reviewed annually by the AC and EC, and will be revised as and when deemed necessary by a majority of the full EC membership at one of its meetings.

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