New Group A Postgrads
Welcome 2017 intake!

[These notes will be circulated by email]
Important Stuff

- You’ve enrolled; have you been paid?
- Make sure you read your email!
  [Anything sent to your 'Starlink' account forwards to your 'UCL' account]
- Be aware of Deptl PG info hub:
  https://www.ucl.ac.uk/physics-astronomy/intranet/student-intranet/phd-mphil
- Start & maintain Student Log (Graduate School)
- Aim to finish in 3 years (4 if you’re CDT)
Important Stuff

- 'Dignity in Work'
  http://www.ucl.ac.uk/star/support

  This covers all aspects of harassment and bullying.

  *The Department has endorsed the UCLU ‘zero tolerance’ pledge, making it official departmental policy.*

- Three group staff members have received training on listening and supporting (‘listening group’):
  Jay Farihi,
  Andrew Pontzen
  Amelie Saintonge.

  They will listen in complete confidence.
Other stuff

- Get your 'Group' photo taken  
  (Oct 16, 11:00, Astro foyer)

- Join RAS?

- Research funding – reckon on around £1000/yr 'disposable income' (for 3 years – differs according to funding source)

- Aim to finish in 3 (CDT 4) years
'Training'

- Research students at UCL are expected to take full advantage of the training on offer and should be aiming to participate in the Doctoral Skills Development Programme and/or appropriate other activities to a degree equivalent to two weeks per year.

- Each training activity on the Doctoral Skills Development Programme website is assigned a number of points. A point is worth approximately ½ day of training: two weeks per year is therefore equivalent to 20 points per year.

- All Research Council funded research students are required by their funding bodies to participate in the Doctoral Skills Development Programme and/or appropriate departmental courses to a degree equivalent to two weeks per year of their funded studentship.
'Training'

- Seminar programme (Mondays 16:00)
  PG training programme (Amelie Saintonge)

- RAS, meetings, APEX...
  [http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~ucfbiac/APEX.htm](http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~ucfbiac/APEX.htm)

- Training Points (Doctoral Skills Development Programme) [https://courses.grad.ucl.ac.uk/](https://courses.grad.ucl.ac.uk/)

- +CDT Programme
Welcome to the Doctoral Skills Development Programme.
This website is continuously updated throughout the year with new development opportunities for postgraduate researchers.

Please note, courses are bookable for the current term only. It will be possible to book onto courses running in the following term, from the last day of the current term.

Quick Search
Search for course (full or partial course title):

Courses A-Z | New Courses

Department Based Training
Departments at UCL provide training for their own students.

Search for department (full or partial name):

UCL Courses by Topic
- Induction / Research Skills Programmes
- IT Skills
- Online Training
- UCL Essential Researcher Development Programme
- Library / Electronic and Archive Resources
- Languages
- Statistics / Mathematical Packages and Techniques
- Presenting / Publishing your Research
- Research Environment
- Writing / Reading / Thesis Preparation
- Analysis / Research Techniques
- Personal and Professional Development
- Teaching Skills
- Entrepreneurship and the Management of Innovation
- Career Management and Employability Skills

Recommended Courses For
- 1st Year Research Students
- 2nd Year Research Students
Chores

- Year Rep (Claudio Arena, Arianna Sorba)
- 'Domestic' chores (vital to morale and well-being of the Group!) – milk/biscuits rota, Christmas & Summer parties.
Admin

- Group Office (Kay) – Deptl. Offices, HoD Office (all main Physics Building)
- Pencil, paper – Stationery store
- Snailmail – check pigeon-holes (Physics)
- Demonstrating/marking opportunities
  https://www.ucl.ac.uk/physics-astronomy/vacancies
Progression

- First-year report, ca. 9-12 months
  [probationary period completed; MPhil:PhD transfer]
- Second-year report, ca. 18 months
- Final-year report, ca. 27 months
  [3-year students need to be thinking about writing up!]
- 'Continuing Research Student' (CRS) status
- Finish within 3 years – get rich quick (£300)
- Penalties ('extension fees') after CRS: £610/quarter, to £2450 at 10+ months (2017/18)
Grads Welcome 2017

We understand that this isn’t your first rodeo. You don’t need to be told what to pack, or that it’s scary moving away from your parents. But, there’s a chance that you are new to UCL, so you still need a welcome!

Here you’ll find a tailored list of events for postgrads that will make it easy for you to meet other people with similar interests, get used to some of the venues on campus and integrate yourself with the UCL community.
A CALL OUT TO JOIN OUR STUDENT CENTRAL USERS GROUP

Are you a student or a member of staff that uses Student Central for any of its services? Could you add value to our organisation with your insight or ideas? If so, why not register your interest in joining our group that meets once a term.

steve.harwood@london.ac.uk
• 14:00 today, “Group Discussion” [all PGs and PDRAs]
• Oct 18: Faculty welcome (“Pep talk from the Dean”)
• Oct 19: P&A reception (E7, 11:00–14:00), “including free food”
It's All Gone Pete Tong

- **Talk:** to your supervisor/second supervisor. If that's difficult or inappropriate, then there's:
  
  the Group A [or CDT] Postgraduate Tutor (Ian Howarth [Serena Viti]);
  
  the Departmental/Faculty Postgraduate Tutor (Tania Monteiro);
  
  the 'Dignity at Work'/listening team (embraces academic issues); the HoG, HoD;
  
  central UCL student welfare services (including counsellors, for example).

- **Tell us...and get documentation**
The Future

● Expect a PhD to be fun, interesting, challenging, and rewarding, but don't expect it to be a guarantee of a subsequent job in astronomy.

● Nearly all of our PhDs who want one (and are prepared to travel) get a postdoc; and historically, perhaps 40--50% are still in the business ten years after graduating.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eSiGW9heL-G7kQ0DP6SJcOdRXOcMiFbs7ps5SwcDVA8/edit?usp=sharing

● Of course, virtually 100% of astronomers have a PhD; that is, it's a necessary, though not sufficient, condition...
Crucial 'take-aways':

- **Make sure** you read mail sent to your UCL Live account (and your 'Starlink' account)
- Start & maintain Student Log (Graduate School)
- Finish in 3 years – get rich quick (£300)
- Penalties after CRS: £590/quarter
- Have fun (but not *too much* fun....)