Induction Week: Welcome

Bob Fisher

School of Informatics

September 2016
Locations

![Google Maps Map of Locations](image)

Source: Google Maps
What the IGS does for PhD students

- Admissions and funding
- Supervisory arrangements
- Monitoring and tracking
  - Opportunities to present work
- Transferable skills training
- Help with problems
Supervisory Arrangements

- Principal supervisor
  - Some have two co-supervisors
  - Support and advice on your research: planning, advice, feedback, resources
  - Advice on networking, careers, teaching duties...

- Assistant supervisor
  - Perhaps more than one
  - Often changes at end of first year
  - Provides backup, complementary expertise
Year 1 Milestones

Month 1: Discuss career aspirations and training needs
Month 4: Outline research proposal
Month 6: Literature review
Month 9: Submit document(s) for first year review
Month 10: Review with written feedback

How to do an Informatics PhD, 16 November OR 8 February

Different for CDTs, who largely do MSc by Research in first year.
Learning by doing
Work with your supervisor
Researcher’s Bible:

IGS.../for-research-students/work-and-play/researchers-bible

Phillips and Pugh, How to get a PhD, OUP
You will learn how to:

- Identify an unsolved problem
- Discover what has been done on that problem
- Make some progress on that problem
- Evaluate your progress, both experimentally and with respect to previous research
- Communicate your advances
General Research Resources

- Institute seminars
- Taught MSc courses
- IALS Language Skill Enhancement
- Institute for Academic Development (IAD) courses: you’ll hear more from them
All first years should take:

- How to do an Informatics PhD
  16 November OR 8 February

- Preparing for First Year Review
  15th March, 2017

- Look out for VOX coaching next spring!

Other IAD courses also available. Details linked from IGS webpage:

http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/student-services/graduate-school
Resolving Problems

- Research never runs smoothly.
- But on rare occasions, things beyond your control hinder progress.
- Don’t ignore the problem and soldier on!
  Keep us informed.
- Lots of people are here to help:
  - Supervisors, IGS, DoI, Personal Tutor, student reps, College postgrad office, EUSA, The Advice Place. . .
- You may be able to interrupt your studies
  which will help you finish within the allowed time frame.
Life Away from your Desk

Various IGS, Institute and School events organised throughout the year
  - PhD Student ‘Families’
  - Trip to Firbush

265 student societies + 65 sports clubs
  www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/societies

Make a bid to me (by email) to financially support a student social event!

It’s important to get to know your fellow students. Peer support is key to a successful PhD.