

Welcome to DAMTP, CMS



Dr Helen Mason, F1.08, DAMTP, Research Students' Adviser
hml1@damtp.cam.ac.uk

You will find most of the information you need in the Research Students' Handbook. Please read this carefully.

DAMTP has many diverse research groups, so things will be done differently in different groups. The main thing is to come in to DAMTP every day and to keep in regular contact with your supervisor. There are lots of seminars, courses and Part III lectures, which you can attend. You can also obtain financial support from DAMTP and your college to attend conferences, both national and international. Make sure you join the Cambridge Philosophical Society, this can have great advantages later in your PhD, for example if you over-run by a few months. The administrative aspects of (your PhD registration etc) are handled (on-line) by the BoGS.



PhD students are expected to make a substantial, original contribution to knowledge in the area of expertise, normally leading to published work. This is very different from being an undergraduate or a Part III student.

During the course of your graduate training, you are expected to acquire general research skills and techniques, such as:

- the ability to recognise and validate problems
- the development of original, independent and critical thinking
- a knowledge of recent advances in your field of research
- an understanding of methodologies and techniques and their application
- an ability to critically analyse and evaluate problems
- an ability to summaries, document, report and reflect on your progress

In general your progress research progress should follow this pattern:

- funding usually lasts for 3 years
- you are expected to complete your PhD by your 10th term
- in the first year, you should carry out some reading, learning and a starter problem
- in you 4th term , you will have an assessment based on a research report
- in you second year, you should carry out your main calculations and give a seminar at DAMTP
- you are encouraged to enter the Smith-Knight and Rayleigh-Knight essay contest
- in your third year, you should give a poster/talk at a conference(s). Start writing up some chapters early in that year
- during your PhD you should produce some publications



Other training opportunities are available to you, and you are strongly encouraged to take these up. They are listed on the DAMTP graduate students web pages. Please keep a log of all these activities.

These include:

- teaching – supervising
- informal/formal seminars/talks
- help with other tasks at DAMTP – open days, summer schools, MMP
- courses run by DAMTP and the School of Physical Sciences for grad students
- computing skills (IT details)
- business skills/career options

Your welfare is important to us. In general, DAMTP is a happy place and there are plenty of opportunities to socialise with other members of your group and beyond. However, IF you have problems – don't let them fester! Please contact us!

Finally, enjoy your time here at DAMTP and in Cambridge, and all the opportunities which are open to you.

