

**Department of Statistics**  
**PhD SSLC meeting**  
Monday 3 December 2012, COL 6.15

Attended:

Qiwei Yao (chair) QY  
Rafal Baranowski (student representative) RB  
Charlie Hu (student representative) CH  
Anna Schroeder (student representative) AS  
Damian Cerase (minutes) DC

**1. General comments**

No serious concerns have been raised by MPhil and PhD students in advance of this meeting.

**2. IT**

Printer issues were reported in room COL 7.03 (printer too old) and TW1 U.11 (noisy printer). While it may be possible to replace old hardware, it may be more difficult to move the printer in the CATS office owing to issues with space and network/power points.

It has been noted that some PCs are very old and slow, which can affect research studies. If students need to run simulations, they are advised to approach IT/Library for access to 'supercomputers', or ask in the CATS office, where more powerful machines may be free. Otherwise, students should ask their supervisor if they would like to upgrade their PC.

*Action points: DC to ask Ian Marshall about replacing 7.03 printer, and discuss with Lyn Grove about possible relocation of noisy printer.*

**3. Funding/teaching**

A query was raised on behalf of students in need of additional funding, to see whether more teaching opportunities are available at LSE, or projects that research students could get involved in. It is also possible to pursue teaching opportunities at other universities.

While it is not the responsibility of the Department to arrange funding for research students, it is recognised that difficulties can occur unexpectedly (eg exchange rate fluctuations), so students are advised to keep the Department informed of their circumstances, and may approach Professor Yao for advice if necessary.

**4. Textbooks**

A request for textbooks was made and two options are available to meet this need. First, students can ask their supervisors to order textbooks for the Leverhulme Library. Alternatively, the main library has an inter-library loan facility.

**5. 'Buddies'**

It was pointed out that some universities run 'Buddy programmes' where older research students can advise new recruits on the typical queries that arise at the start of a programme.

*Action points: DC to investigate whether 'Buddies' can be put in place for the new students' induction.*

## **6. Next meeting**

To be arranged towards the end of the Lent term.

*Action points: DC to make arrangements for the next meeting.*