

New procedure for allocating Part III projects

Aim

To allocate students to projects in an efficient way, aiming to have the whole process complete within a week.

Method

1. By the end of the Lent Term (17th March in 2017), each PI declares their capacity for Part III project students. Each PI is expected to declare a capacity of at least 1, and those with larger groups are expected to declare higher capacities in proportion. Senior postdocs and others of equivalent status may also declare a capacity subject to agreement with their host PI.
2. PIs will be invited to submit descriptions of particular projects or generic descriptions of their research area for advertising on the website; these should be provided by the start of the Easter Term (25th April in 2017).
3. There will be a period at the start of the Easter Term (8th – 19th May 2017) during which students and PIs can meet.
4. Towards the end of May (26th May in 2017) students will be asked to express their preferences (up to 5), in order, as to which projects/groups they are interested in working in.
5. The next stages are closely timetabled; the dates are those for 2017
 - a. On or before Friday 2nd June 2017 each PI will be sent a list of the students who have expressed an interest in working in their group; this list will indicate whether a PI has been placed 1st, 2nd, .. in the student's rank order. A complete list of all students showing their preferences will also be made available, along with their Part IB results.
 - b. PIs *may* (but are not required to) respond indicating
 - i. The names of students they are *not* prepared to take for projects
 - ii. The names of students they are particularly interested in taking. *If* such preferences are indicated, heavily subscribed PIs will be expected to return a list of possible students containing at least three times as many names as there are places on offer.
 - c. The deadline for responses from PIs is 17:00 on Wednesday 7th June. If no response is sent it will be assumed that all of the students listed are acceptable.
 - d. Having gathered these responses, students will be allocated to PIs taking into account – in as far as is possible – the preferences expressed on both sides.
6. Once all students have been placed, the results are announced. This will not be done before the Part II examinations have been sat, and the aim will be to announce it as soon as possible thereafter.