

Computing Laboratory

MT 2010

Welcome from Director of Graduate Studies

Professor Marta Kwiatkowska



Oxford University Computing Laboratory

The Computing Laboratory

- Research overview
 - Aim to be one of the world's best Computer Science departments, at one of the world's best universities
 - Both sophisticated theory and engagement with applications
 - New group structure, six themes following Numerical Analysis move to Mathematics
 - Computational Biology
 - Foundations, Logic and Structures
 - Information Systems
 - Programming Languages
 - Software Engineering
 - Verification
- Research students: D.Phil., M.Sc. by Research
 - Aim to provide best quality supervision and research environment
 - Growing number of D.Phil. Students, currently over 100

Finding out about things...

- What is a research degree?
 - *“Finding out something to find out, then finding it out”*
 - Freedom from tightly prescribed courses, textbooks, exams...
 - ... but more responsibility for organising own time and taking charge of investigation
- The Graduate Research Student handbook
 - Comlab and Computer Science specific
 - Available on the Comlab webpage
 - <http://web.comlab.ox.ac.uk/teaching/dphil/>
- MPLS handbook
 - Essential information about forms to fill, deadlines, etc
- The ‘grey book’
 - Authoritative, but MPLS handbook more detailed on regulations and code of practice

Roles and expectations

- People
 - You
 - Supervisor, or supervisors
 - Academic advisor
 - College advisor
- Support for Graduate Studies
 - Julie Sheppard, Graduate Admissions Secretary (112)
 - Shoshannah Holdom, Academic Administrator (107)
 - Marta Kwiatkowska, DGS (453), arrange appointment through Emma Macaskill, usually Wed afternoon, dependent on travel
 - MPLS division Graduate Studies Office
- General support
 - Computers, keys, library, etc
 - See Reception or Jo Leggett

Milestones in the life as a D.Phil.

- Life begins... (may be different for DTC students)
 - PRS: **Probationary** Research Student, 1st year
 - Start research, take courses, participate in research activities, ...
 - **Transfer** to D.Phil. (or M.Sc. by Research) Status, **within 4 terms**
 - Submit qualifying dissertation (research report and thesis proposal)
 - Be examined by 2 assessors (not supervisor)
 - Maximum **two** attempts, within 6 terms
 - **Confirmation** of D.Phil. Status, **within 9 terms**
 - Submit progress report, incl. thesis contents and timetable
 - Be examined by 2 assessors (not supervisor, at least one with experience of successful supervision to completion)
 - **Submission** of thesis and Examination, **within 12 terms**
 - External and internal examiners
 - Viva voce, in subfusc
- What's next?
 - Career as a researcher, lecturer, in IT, management, etc

More on 1st year

- Supervision and year pattern
 - Term-time and vacation, apart from reasonable breaks
 - Meet with supervisor regularly, **weekly/fortnightly**
- Courses
 - Take **and** be examined on **4 courses**, normally in the 1st year
 - 2 courses if MSc by Research
 - Default is MSc in Computer Science courses, alternatives possible, e.g. reading courses – supervisor will advise
 - An exciting selection available in Comlab and other MPLS departments, see webpages
 - Discuss with supervisor
 - Complete/submit “**PRS course selection**” form
- Research
 - Begin research (“finding out something to find out”)
 - Reading (lots of!), literature survey, small case study...

More on 1st year

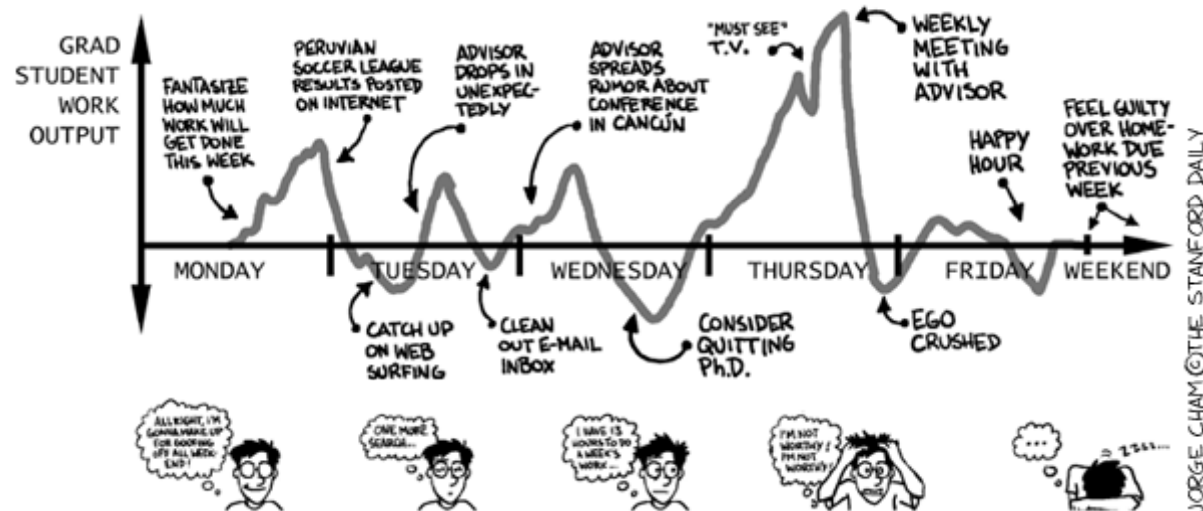
- Research activities
 - You are **expected** to attend seminars
 - Departmental
 - Specialist group seminars
 - Cake talks, etc
 - Giving first talks, contributing to research papers...
 - Conference travel funding available
 - Participate in **Comlab Student Conference** on 19th Nov
- Teaching and training
 - Class teaching and demonstrator training available
 - Paid teaching (normally from 2nd year), **must** have attended training beforehand
- Skills training
 - Leadership, team work, time management, etc
 - See MPLS website, University Skills Portal

Making sure there is progress

- **Your** motivation and commitment essential
- **GSS: online termly reporting system**
 - Student reports first, then supervisor
 - Students **strongly advised** to submit report
 - Reports available to DGS and College
- **JCC: your chance to give feedback to department**
 - Pia Wojtinnik, COGS (freshers event)
- **Milestones**
 - Regulations clearly specify the process, deadlines, forms
 - For example, your status as research student lapses if you
 - don't **complete** transfer within 6 terms
 - don't **apply for** confirmation within 9 terms
- **If things go wrong...**
 - Talk to supervisor, talk to advisors
 - else DGS (via Julie) or Director

Jorge Cham's PhD Comics

- www.phdcomics.com
- 'Graph – Work output'



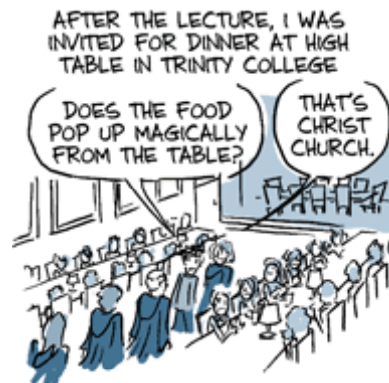
Jorge Cham at Oxford...



PHD TALES FROM THE
ROAD PRESENTS:

"2nd Desserts"

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WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM



Good luck! I want to hear about your great results!