Year 1 Activities

Teaching and Learning
Timeline

Year 1: Research project
Year 2: Taught modules, Cohort training events (computational skills), Autumn and spring meeting, transferrable skills training and external partner engagement
Year 3: External placement
Year 4: Thesis writing

6 month placement can take place anytime during years 2 and/or 3.
Taught modules: main principles

- Modules delivered at the 5 partner universities
- For Bristol and Cardiff: register after obtaining your university email address
- Accessible via recorded lectures, online material
- Meet the lecturer in person via zoom meeting (to be scheduled)
- No exams at the end (you are no longer undergrads!)
- Assessment via coursework and participation
- Monitored by lecturer and CDT management team
- Part of probation, progression after 6/12 months
Year 1:
Modules

- Semester 1
  - Machine Learning - Bristol
  - Data Analysis - Cardiff

- Semester 1+2
  - Reading and Writing Development Group - Aberystwyth

- Semester 2
  - Information Visualisation - Bangor
  - Quantum computing - Swansea

- Research-theme specific modules, in the students’ home university
Module: Machine Learning (semester 1)

• Dr James Cussens (Bristol University)

• Assessment: Coursework
Machine Learning is the science of how we can build abstractions of the world from data and use them to solve problems in a data-driven way. This unit introduces the field of Machine Learning and teaches how to create and use software that improves with experience.

After successfully completing this unit, you will be able to understand the fundamental principles of machine learning and how to build models of data.

Module: Data Analysis (semester 1)

- Prof Haley Gomez (Cardiff University)
- Assessment: Coursework
- See later today
Module: Data Analysis (semester 1)

• To introduce students to the mathematical and statistical techniques used to analyse (physics) data. Similar techniques are also employed in a non-physics environment such as financial modelling, industry or other sciences

• To develop research skills, computing skills and the ability to work independently

• To translate raw data into a robust measurement and to interpret data given a hypothesis

• To be familiar with approaches and methods in interpreting data, particularly with large data sets

• To be familiar with using statistical techniques and methods of quantitative analysis of data
Module: Information Visualization (sem 2)

• Prof Jonathan Roberts (Bangor University)

• Assignments in 2\textsuperscript{nd} semester

• Poster presentation on research project
Module: Information Visualization (sem 1+2)

• The history and future of Information Visualization; the challenges of Information Visualization; tasks; user, perception, data types.

• Looking at data. Data capture and problems of capturing data. Selection/abstraction of data (aggregation, sampling; binning; cropping); Big data challenges.

• Understand current visualisation techniques, including traditional plots (bar, line, scatter etc.), parallel coordinate plots, treemaps, re-orderable matrix; scatter plot matrix.

• Perception and interpretation; understanding how humans perceive information. Encoding of value; Encoding of relation; Models: Bertin, Mackinlay (Quantitative, Ordinal, and Categorical), Semiotics.

• Design of visualisations, dashboards, and considering alternative solutions and critical analysis of these visualisations.

• Interaction and exploration, looking at focus + context and distortion technique; multiple views and composite interaction; brushing; animation.
Module: Reading and Writing Development (sem 1+2)

• Prof Reyer Zwiggelaar (Aberystwyth University)

• Delivered via slack and Teams

• Assessment: draft literature review, reflective essay
Module: Reading & Writing Development (sem 1+2)

Aim is to develop the research skills of the students, with an emphasis on the critical analysis of the literature

- Identify and discuss subject specific literature
- Communicate with non-experts
- Defend points from the literature, which they might not support
- Reflect on aspects in the literature
- Critically evaluate the literature
- To write up literature review aspects
Module: Quantum computing (semester 2)

- Prof Gert Aarts (Swansea University)
- Delivered via zoom lectures + recordings
- Assessment: Coursework
Module: Quantum Computing (semester 2)

Introduction to basic concepts of quantum mechanics, quantum algorithms and quantum computers.

Understanding of most relevant quantum algorithms, including Grover's search algorithm, Shor's algorithm for factoring, quantum teleportation, quantum cryptography protocols and quantum error correction.

The aim of this module is to provide a foundation to continue with quantum machine learning (QML), a new and more exploratory research area. No knowledge of physics is assumed.
In addition, you should take research–specific modules at your university, relevant for your research topic, e.g.

• Machine Learning for Intelligent Systems (Aberystwyth)
• Virtual Environments & Human Perception (Bangor)
• Statistics for Particle Physicists (Bristol)
• Gravitational Waves (Cardiff)
• Machine Learning in Healthcare (Swansea)

This is arranged in discussion with your supervisor and the local PGR coordinator.
Taught modules

Recap:

• No exams, but coursework and assessments
• Registration with other universities overseen by CDT management, once you have your university email addresses
• Take advantage of what is on offer!
• If you have done the specific module already, no need to take it again.

Any questions?
Transferable Skills Training

Delivered throughout the programme, via inter/intra cohort meetings

- Communication, critical thinking, unconscious-bias, EDI, impact
- Leadership, grant writing, public engagement
- Management and financial planning skills
- Thesis writing, employability, careers

- Training/workshops led by industrial partners
Delivery via (virtual) events

• Two-day zoom meetings to meet up, receive training, get to know your peers, work on open problems, exchange experiences
• Research Software Engineer (RSE) led sessions
• Cohort-building activities/transferable skills
• Mentoring by experienced CDT students

Schedule to be communicated shortly
Dates are fixed, please put them in your diaries
Annual meetings

Two meetings per year for all students, external partners, supervisors

• All cohorts and external partners invited, networking and feedback

• Autumn meeting:
  • welcome to new cohort
  • Pairing of students with external partners
  • Mentoring, feedback, transferable skills, …

• Spring meeting: annual conference
  • Science! oral and poster presentations
  • EDI, RI, industrial research presentations by external speakers
  • Mentoring, feedback, transferable skills, …

• External Stakeholder board meetings
Travel, accommodation, RTSG

Costs for training events (like the current one) are covered by the CDT
• Please contact Roz for questions
• Respond promptly to information requests (booking, travel, reimbursement, etc)

RTSG: research training support grant
• purchase a laptop, again via Roz
• conference, workshop, PhD school: discuss with your supervisor
• do not book independently, uni travel rules are non-trivial
• always first agree with your supervisor and Roz for bookings, claims etc

please respond to Roz’s emails promptly!
Responsible Innovation

• Responsible research in the global context – societal responsibilities, plagiarism, falsification, collaboration
• Issues of integrity – individual and institutional responsibilities
• Data management – sharing data, open access, medical data
• Research ethics – human participants, animals, health
• AI and ML specific aspects – bias, transparency
• Case studies
Responsible Innovation

- Reflect on which RI issues may arise
- Two-page report
  - Written in the spring
  - Part of the end-of-year progression
- Explicit example of RI in the context of AI
  - At spring meeting
- Peer learning/reflection in later years

Input from external partners on RI in non-academic environments welcome, for example via presentations at annual meetings

Part of module delivered by Reyer Zwiggelaar (Aber)
Questions?