

Scottish Mathematical Sciences Training Centre (SMSTC)

Constitution

Raison d'être

The Scottish Mathematical Sciences Training Centre (SMSTC) exists to provide high-quality broad training in mathematics and statistics for PhD students in the mathematical sciences in Scotland. The participating institutions are: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, St Andrews, Stirling and Strathclyde. Training takes place across a number of **themes**, each headed by a **Theme Head**, and is delivered by video-conferencing during the season October–April. Supplementary modules may also take place on an *ad hoc* basis. There is a pan-SMSTC **symposium** annually each October.

Academic Steering and Management Group

The SMSTC is managed by its **Academic Steering and Management Group** (ASMG) which includes the **Director of the SMSTC** and a minimum of **ten other members** so as to provide representation of all the participating institutions and to provide representation across the main subject areas of the mathematical sciences in which training is provided. In addition:

- There shall be **up to three external members** of the ASMG to provide a broad perspective on Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics and other areas of Mathematical Sciences.
- There shall be a **student member** to represent the interests of PhD students currently taking SMSTC courses. The student member may occasionally be excluded from discussions involving confidential or personal matters.
- Any **centre for doctoral training** in mathematics formed by member departments will be invited to have a member on the committee.
- If deemed necessary, **further members** may be co-opted to provide coverage in specific areas (e.g. technical expertise).

The ASMG is supported administratively by the Maxwell Institute Graduate School, and relevant administrative staff are in attendance at its meetings.

Terms of Office

Terms of office on ASMG shall in general be up to three years, with the possibility of renewal for a further year by mutual agreement. Terms of office run on a calendar year to calendar year basis.

Remit of ASMG

The remit of ASMG is to manage the SMSTC. In particular it will

- oversee and review academic activities;
- organise consultations with students and other interested parties;
- respond to comments by external members;
- oversee operation of SMSTC website and decide on necessary changes;
- plan symposia;
- consider proposals for new modules;
- appoint Theme Heads as required;
- advise Theme Heads as necessary;
- ensure timely communication of assessment results to students and participating institutions;
- conduct annual Academic Review in May;
- decide upon and oversee any changes deemed necessary.

Individual responsibilities

Director: set agenda for and chair ASMG meetings; communicate with external bodies and represent SMSTC externally as necessary; issue invitations to new ASMG members and Theme Heads; chair events such as symposia; solicit annual reports from themes; prepare materials for Annual Review; prepare Annual Report on SMSTC activities; oversee other routine communication, student liaison and general administration within SMSTC; oversee all matters concerning financial issues.

Deputy Director: assist the Director in the general administration of SMSTC as required.

Technical Officer: oversee all matters concerning technical delivery.

All ASMG members: actively liaise with their own departments on all matters concerning the SMSTC; give an oral report on this at May meeting.

Theme Head: oversee operation of an individual theme; ensure that appropriate assessment takes place and results reported; prepare brief Annual Report; undertake other organisational roles as agreed with the Director.

Meetings

The ASMG shall normally meet yearly in May. Extra business will be carried out by e-mail wherever possible, and an extraordinary meeting may be called if discussion is required on important matters.

Standing items of business at the May meeting shall include:

- Review of enrolment in the previous session.
- Review of assessment in the previous session.
- Departmental round-up.
- Review of Annual Reports from Theme Heads.
- Review of feedback from students and other parties.
- Academic recommendations and decisions for forthcoming session (including appointment of Theme Heads).
- Planning for changes of membership of ASMG.
- Review of remit and constitutional matters.
- Planning for Symposium in the forthcoming session.
- Dates and timetable for the forthcoming session.

APPENDIX 1: ASMG members

Period of office expires at the *end* of stated calendar year unless otherwise stated.

Position	Name	Institution	Area	From–To
External				
External	Elaine Crooks	Swansea	Nonlinear PDEs	2023–25
External	Ailsa Keating	Cambridge	Geometry and topology	2023–25
	Lotte Hollands	AGQ CDT	Mathematical physics	2021–
	Kevin Hughes	Napier	Harmonic analysis and analytic number theory	2023–
	Ran Levi	Aberdeen	Topology, algebra and neuroscience	2024–
	Rachel Norman	Stirling	Mathematical modelling and environmental science	2017–
	Mark Powell	Glasgow	Topology	2022–
	David Pritchard	Strathclyde	Fluid dynamics	2023–
	Audrey Repetti	SPADS CDT	Bayesian inference and optimisation	2024–
	Lucia Scardia	Heriot–Watt & MAC-MIGS CDT	PDEs, harmonic analysis and homogenisation	2024–
	Richard Scott	St Andrews	Fluid mechanics	2022–
	Dumitru Trucu	Dundee	Mathematical biology	2021–
	Francesco Tudisco	Edinburgh	Machine learning and network science	2024–
Student Representative				
Director	Ana Lecuona	Glasgow	Topology and knot theory	2025–27
Deputy Director				
Technical Officer	Ronnie Wallace	Strathclyde		2019–

APPENDIX 2: Current Theme Heads

Theme	Head	Institution	Start
Analysis	Gabriel Barrenechea	Strathclyde	2023
Applications of Mathematics	Richard Scott	St Andrews	2020
Probability and Statistics	Victor Elvira	Edinburgh	2021
Structure and Symmetry	Alessandro Sisto	Heriot–Watt	2023

Updated January 2025