

# POST-GRADUATE INFORMATION AND INDUCTION

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Ronan McNulty

Head of Postgraduate Studies (Research)

School of Physics

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# Agenda

- Welcome to new students
- Ph.D. Timelines
- People in support
  - Front-of-house
  - Supervisor, Co-supervisor, DSP, Transfer Panel, Viva panel,
- Representation
- Modules
- Seminars
- Transfers

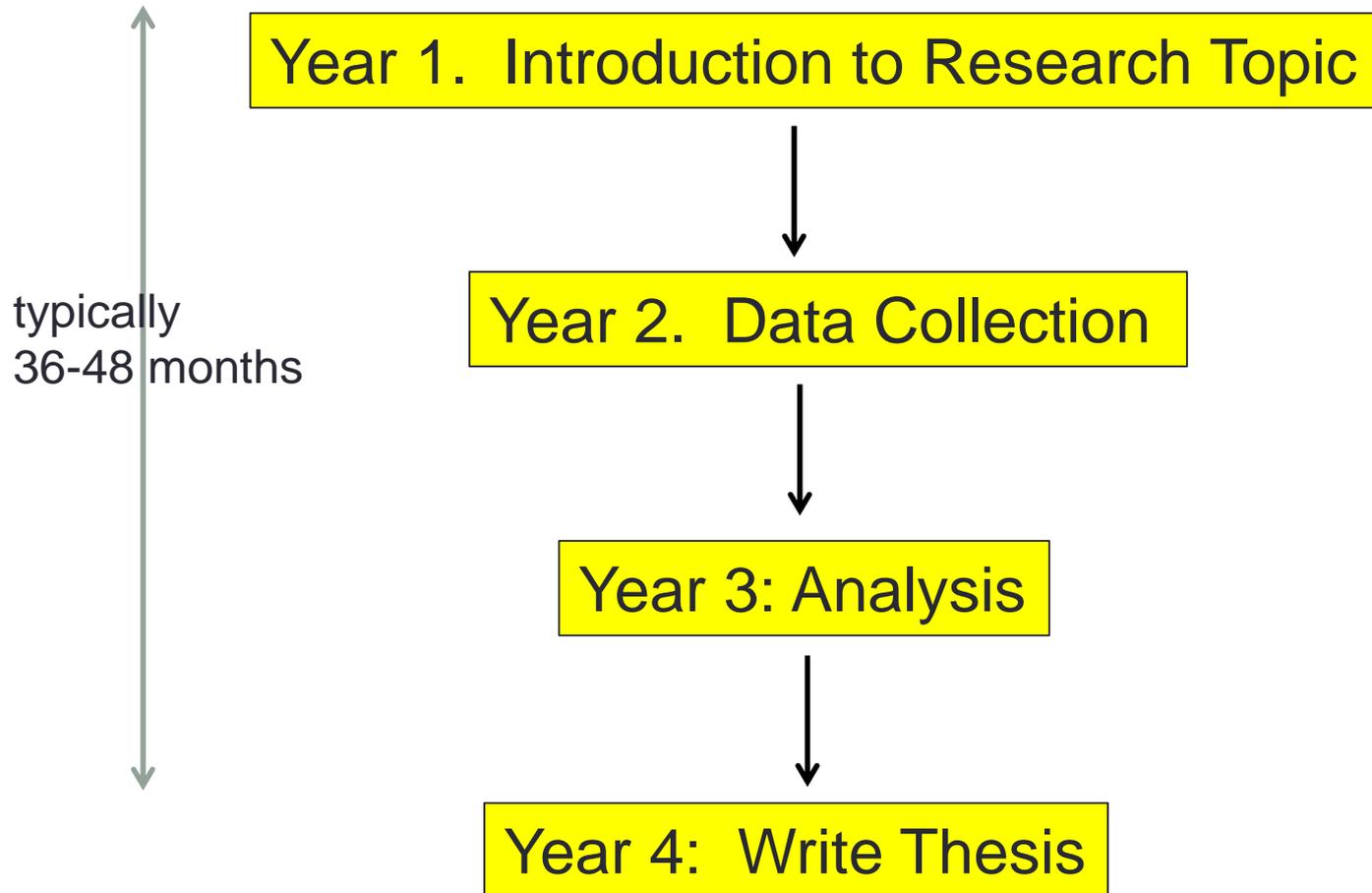
# New Students

Student	Supervisor
Tian De Paor	Emma Sokell
Agata Fularz	James Rice
Eric Doyle	Padraig Dunne
Kevin Flanagan	John Quinn
Lucas McConnell	Ronan McNulty
Jack Reilly	Sheila McBreen
Silas O'Toole	Dominic Zerulla
Sean Brennan	Sheila McBreen
Brajesh Narayan	Vio Buchete
Fatimah Alwahiti	James Rice

# Undergrad Postgrad Transition

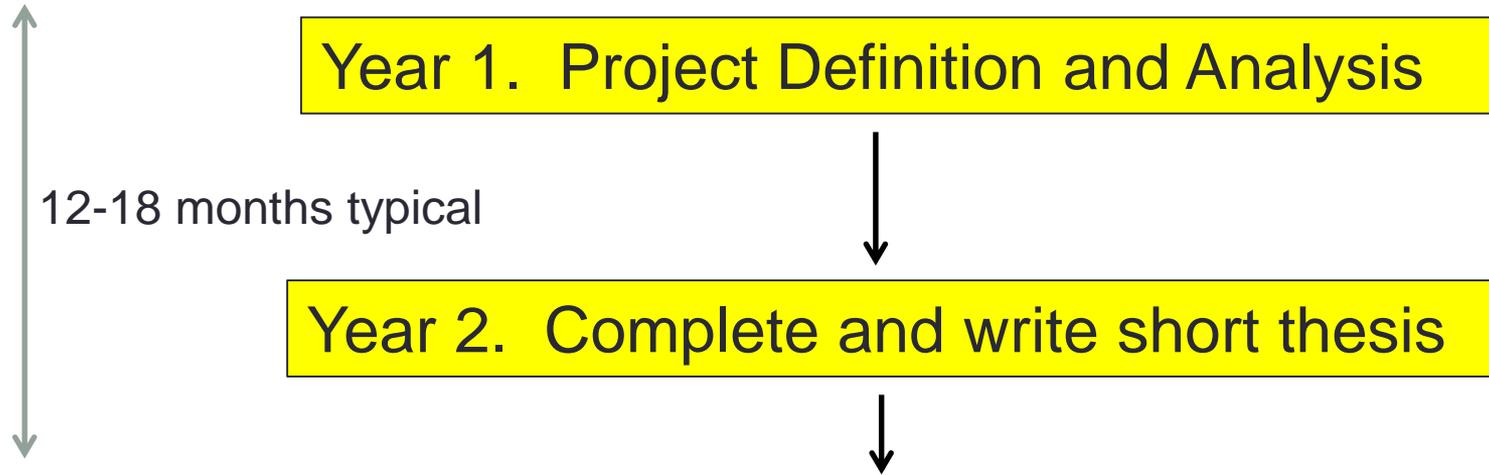
- knowledge consumer -> knowledge provider
  - You become the world expert on a particular element
  - You write original papers that contribute to world knowledge
- Personal responsibility for your research
  - organising your time and your work
  - managing your interactions with other researchers and your supervisor
- Independent thought and judgement
- Perseverance
  - Sometimes it is frustrating when there is no 'instant' solution.

# Ph.D. TimeLine (sample)



(Your mileage may vary, but discuss with supervisors and DSP if large variance)

# MSc. TimeLine (sample)



# Ph.D. TimeLine (sample)

Year 1. Introduction to Research Topic

Year 2. Data Collection

TRANSFER  
(before month  
18)

Convert  
to MSc.

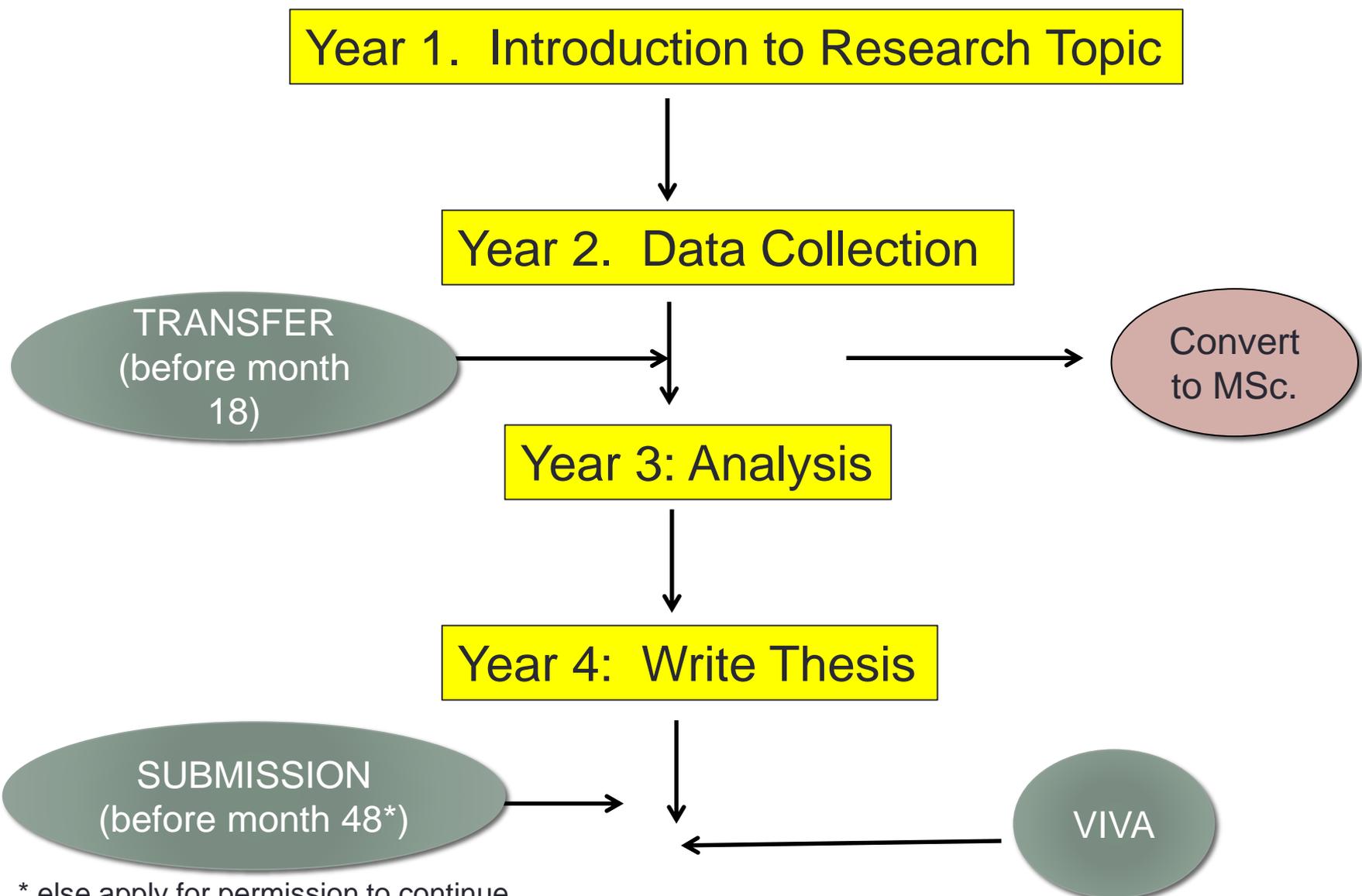
Year 3: Analysis

Year 4: Write Thesis

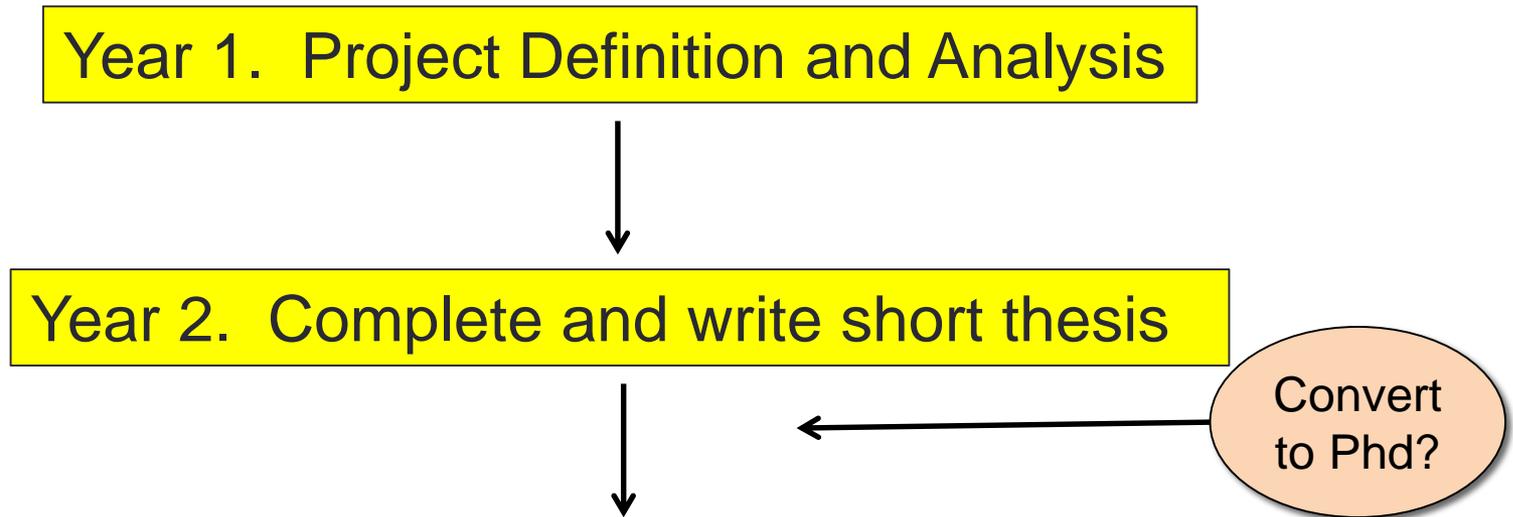
SUBMISSION  
(before month 48\*)

VIVA

\* else apply for permission to continue



# MSc. TimeLine (sample)



# People supporting you: Front-of-House

- Bairbre Fox
- John Brennan
- Sonja Mac Curtain
- Angela Dunne O'Toole
- Can deal with most administrative issues
  - Registration
  - Expenses
  - Advances
  - Room booking
  - Whom to contact



# People supporting you: Supervisor

- Primary contact
- Research partnership
- Advisor, not (solely) instructor
- Different relationship to undergraduate
- Transition towards independent researcher
- Meet daily / weekly / <monthly
- Formal / Informal
- Strong recommendation: record meetings for review at Transfer.

## Meeting Records (strongly advised)

- Prepare Agenda
- Email to supervisor in advance
- Take notes under each item
- Agree and note action items for next meeting
- File on Infohub – Research - ‘view meetings’



# People supporting you: Co-Supervisor

- Different source of opinion
- Wider collaboration
- Independent voice
- Second line of defence in case of problems

# People supporting you: DSP

- Doctoral Studies Panel consists of:
  - Supervisor
  - Co-supervisor
  - Third member
- Must meet once per year
- Supervisor organises first DSP
- Thereafter: YOUR responsibility to convene DSP
- File report on Infohub

NB. Your DSP is there to HELP.  
It cannot sanction.

It's role is to plan and sort out real or potential problems

# People supporting you: Advisors

- Some issues do not fall under DSP or may wish to be raised in a less formal or confidential setting.
- Apart from your supervisor / co-supervisor, you can get independent advice from:
  - Emma Sokell
  - Ronan McNulty



If things are not working-out seek advice  
SOONER rather than LATER  
Problems are best solved by early intervention.

# People supporting you: Transfer Panel

- Independent body that will assess whether you should progress to Stage 2 of Ph.D.
- Consists of:
  - Chair + two members (not supervisor)
- Transfer requires
  - Report (~10 pages)
  - Presentation (~15 minutes)
  - Interview (~15 minutes)

# People supporting you: Viva Panel

- Independent body that will assess whether you should be awarded a Ph.D.
- Consists of:
  - Chair + external examiner + internal examiner (not supervisor)
- Ph.D. assessment requires
  - Report (~100-150 pages)
  - Presentation (30-40 minutes)
  - Interview (2+ hours)

# People supporting you: Head of Postgrad Studies (Research)

- Currently this is Ronan McNulty
- I have an overview of all postgrads and will track your progress.
- Contact me if something is not working procedurally or you have particular concerns
- I will schedule / sign-off on your Transfer and your Viva

# People in support: Head of School



UCD PHYSICS,  
HEAD OF SCHOOL,

MARTIN.GRUNEWALD@UCD.IE ROOM 115.

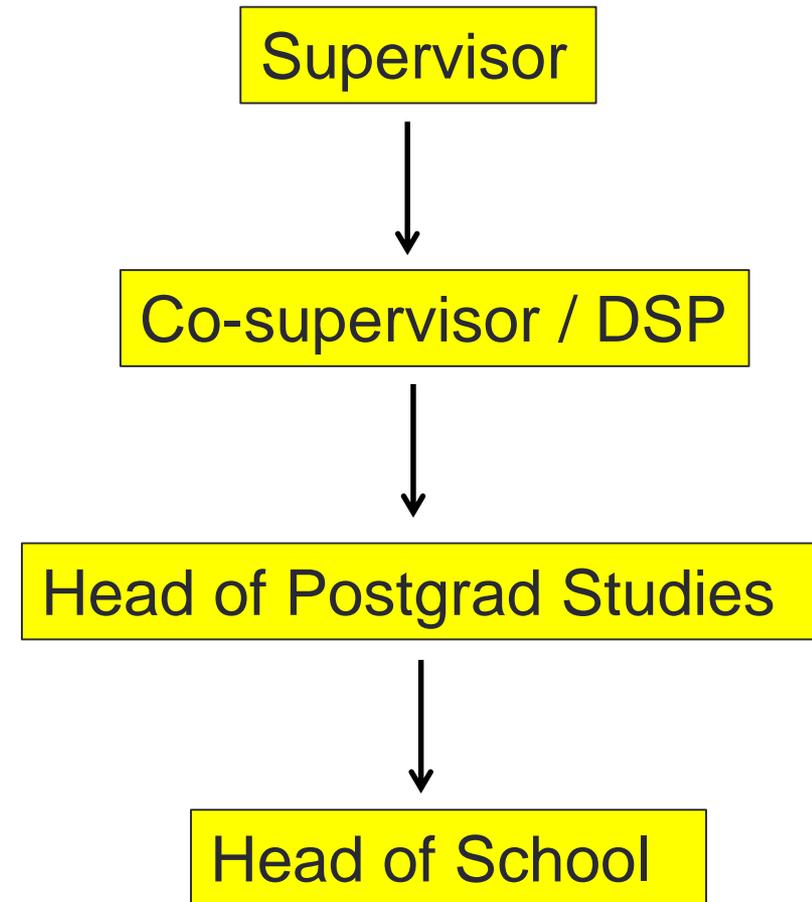
***“GO AND ASK AS SOON AS YOU HAVE A  
PROBLEM. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE PROBLEMS  
UNATTENDED. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU.”***

# People in support: UCD student advisors

- <http://www.ucd.ie/studentadvisers/>
- Catriona Keane (Advisor for Science)
- Any student matters (from registration to counselling)
- Consider joining some student societies / sports etc.
- Student health services (Student centre)  
<http://www.ucd.ie/stuhealth/contact/>
- Student Union Graduate sabbatical officer (Niall Torris)  
<https://www.ucdsu.ie/yourunion/sabbatical-officers/>

# Representation

- There are two postgrad representatives at (~monthly) School Meetings
  - Elgiva White, A.N.Other
- They can bring up any general postgrad issues with me, or at School meetings.
- They also organise pizza and postgrad evenings. (discussions / table quiz / lunch etc.)



# Modules

- You need to take 30 credits during your Ph.D.
- Typically 100 hours= 5 credits.
- Prior learning can be recognised eg. MSc., Diplomas, Course work, professional experience (up to 20 credits)
- Specified learning can give credits (e.g. assigned reading or course work / online lectures / workshops / schools)
- Modules:
  - **Compulsory: Teaching and Demonstrating PHYC40570**
  - Discipline specific modules (talk to your supervisor)
  - Scientific Writing SCI50030: recommend to take when you are preparing your Transfer Report
  - Research Ethics SCI50020 (online!)
  - Research Skills SCI50010 (online!)
  - Programming (e.g. COMP41680)
  - Entrepreneurship (see Innovation Academy modules)
  - Languages
  - etc.



*John Quinn  
schedules tutors  
and demonstrators*

# Seminars



- Organised by Andrew Mitchell
- Seminars usually take place Thursday at 2pm
- **You are expected to attend.** (Sign the attendance book)
- PhD./MSc. requires a broad as well as deep appreciation of physics.
- First half of seminars will be pitched at undergraduate level
- You will be questioned on physics outside your core area, as reflected in the Seminars, in your Transfer and possibly your Viva.
- (may become a module)

# Transfers

- Transfer presentations will take place as part of the seminar series.
- I need to schedule these and will be in contact with you to arrange a date.

## Name

Sam Green

Elgiva White

Olszewski Mateusz

Pallavi Kumari

Raab Naomi

Sarah Walsh

Visakh V S Pillai

Lana Salmon

Maxiliano Enrique Contreras Lopez

Jessica Erkal

Emma Callis

Cormac O Donohoe

Brajesh Narayan

Christoph Sadee

Ahmed Gaballah

# Transfers

- Presentation: You will give a mini-seminar (15 minutes).
  - ~50% should be dedicated to an overview of your area appropriate for non-experts
  - ~50% should give specific results you have obtained to date.
  - One slide should deal with your plans for the future.
- Report
  - About 10 pages long written to show an understanding of the subject
  - Write for the non-expert (final year undergraduate).
  - Show your understanding
  - Give your results to date
  - Outline your plan for the future.
- Interview
  - About 15 minutes. Committee are judging whether you have attained an appropriate level of knowledge, competence and independence, and ***if you have a plan.***
- Outcomes
  - Progress to Ph.D.
  - Retake Transfer in 6 months
  - Transfer to MSc.
  - Exit

# Your Responsibilities

- Regular attendance
- Be proactive with your research project and skills training
- Take responsibility for documenting meeting records
- Show consideration to others sharing your office and lab
- Prepare for and organise your annual DSP
- Act in a professional and ethical manner (e.g. no plagiarism)
- Read the literature
- Support the work of your research group

Any Questions?