

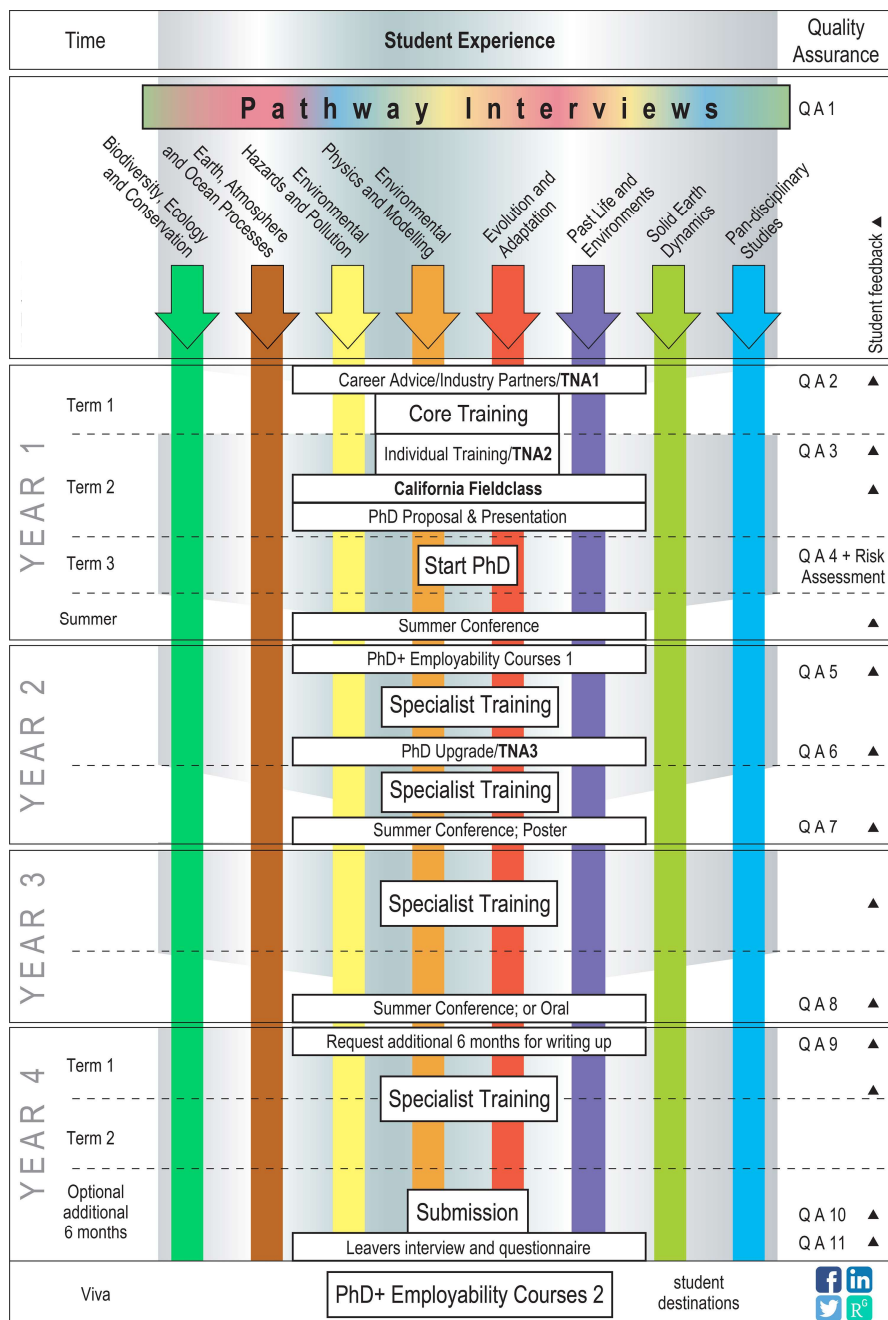
The London NERC DTP Brief Guide for Students 2020-21



This brief guide provides a simple overview of the DTP programme. **Induction week** starts on Monday 28 September. During **induction week** you will be provided with further details about the DTP.

Outline of DTP programme. Figure 1 shows the 4-year timeline and elements (core research, professional development, transferable and project-oriented skills).

Figure 1



The Programme – Year 1

Note that the training is cohort-wide and a mandatory element of year 1 of the PhD programme. Students are required to attend **at least 95%** of the training in term 1 and term 2, in order to be allowed to move onto their allocated PhD project.

Key Dates - 2020/21 overview

2020

The DTP Programme starts on Monday 28 September. Weekly structure, content and dates are summarised below on pages 3-5.

UCL closes for Christmas break: Friday 18 December

2021

UCL re-opens after Christmas break: Monday 4 January

Training structure, content and dates are summarised below on pages 5-6.

Scheduled to take place in beginning to mid-March:

- Student presentations of PhD proposals
- Student-led Field trip

Early-mid September: Summer Conference - student-organised event, involving students from 3 independent DTPs (our DTP and those led by Imperial College London and University of Reading, respectively).

DTP Programme - Term 1 details, weekly structure, content, dates

Figure 2 shows the core structure of each week after Induction Week, typically with 4 elements and based on a 10.00 – 17.00 day:

- core multidisciplinary training for around 2.5 days with a DTP Partner, typically from Monday to Wednesday, and moving between Partner institutions in consecutive weeks.
- meeting with prospective supervisors at that week's Partner, the specific day varies somewhat from week to week and from one training host institution to another.
- attendance at the NHM on the Friday for 'Skills' events.
- a day set aside for students to network individually with potential supervisors and reflect on learning experience, often on Thursday but varies from week to week.



Figure 2

Training hosted by Partner institutions

Monday to Wednesday of each week, researchers from the Partner institutions will deliver talks, practical classes and problem-solving classes on a series of current topics in environmental science. Figure 3 summarises the content. Weeks 11 & 12 at UCL will be focused on **Broader engagement**. In part the planned activities will provide a platform for the DTP's many non-academic partners and external organisations (spanning industry, NGOs and the public sector) to highlight to the student cohort their current and potential links with researchers in the DTP. These weeks will involve sessions examining possible ways that students can engage with external organisations during their PhD, for example via internships. Sessions will also cover Innovation topics (how science research can be communicated and

how to foster links with external organisations), as well as considering how students can promote broader engagement in environmental sciences. The cohort will also be given the opportunity to engage with and reflect on topics of equality, diversity and inclusion in research.

Term Week	w/b Monday	Location Monday-Wednesday	Local Organiser(s) (email addresses)	Topic
1	28/09	UCL	David Thornalley d.thornalley@ucl.ac.uk DTP Office londonnercdtp.admin@ucl.ac.uk	Induction/Earth System Science
2	05/10	UCL	Michel Tsamados m.tsamados@ucl.ac.uk Susan Little susan.little@ucl.ac.uk	Earth Dynamics
3	12/10	RHUL	Danielle Schreve Danielle.Schreve@rhul.ac.uk	Past Climates
4	19/10	BBK	Andy Carter a.carter@ucl.ac.uk Charlie Bristow c.bristow@ucl.ac.uk	Natural Processes & Hazards
5	26/10	QMUL	Mark Trimmer m.trimmer@qmul.ac.uk Geraldene Wharton g.wharton@qmul.ac.uk	Ecosystem Science
6	02/11	KCL	Nicholas Drake nick.drake@kcl.ac.uk	Earth Surface Processes
7	09/11	UCL	Daniel Verscharen d.verscharen@ucl.ac.uk	Space Hazards
8	16/11	BRUNEL	Andreas Kortenkamp andreas.kortenkamp@brunel.ac.uk	Environmental Hazards & Pollution Hazards
9	23/11	IoZ	Chris Carbone chris.carbone@ioz.ac.uk	Conservation & Behaviour
10	30/11	NHM	Eileen Cox e.cox@nhm.ac.uk	Evolution
11	07/12	UCL	David Thornalley d.thornalley@ucl.ac.uk DTP Office londonnercdtp.admin@ucl.ac.uk	Broader engagement (Part 1)
12	14/12	UCL	Kevin Fowler k.fowler@ucl.ac.uk DTP Office londonnercdtp.admin@ucl.ac.uk	Broader engagement (Part 2)

Figure 3

Meet the supervisor events

Opportunity to meet potential supervisors from each DTP Partner institution and discuss project ideas.

Time for reflection & networking

Opportunity to arrange 1:1 meetings with potential supervisors from any DTP Partner Institution and discuss project ideas.

Skills Fridays at NHM

Focus on transferable skills and personal development, using mix of seminars, workshops and action learning sets.

DTP Programme - Term 2 details, weekly structure, content, dates

Figure 4 shows the key content and activities during term 2. These are subject to change.

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 st Jan 2021	2 nd	3 rd
January	1 4 th Stat/Modelling preparation - TBC	5 th Stat/Modelling preparation - TBC	6 th Modelling	7 th Modelling	8 th TBC
	2 11 th Stats/Modelling	12 th Stats/Modelling	13 th Stats/Modelling	14 th Stats/Modelling	15 th Stats/Modelling
	3 18 th	PhD Project Development			22 nd Stats/Modelling
February	4 25 th				29 th Stats/Modelling
	5 1 st				5 th Stats/Modelling
	6 8 th				12 th Stats/Modelling
	7 15 th	Reading Week			
March	8 22 nd	PhD Project Development			26 th Field Trip preparation
	9 1 st				5 th Field Trip preparation
	10 8 th Field Trip (TBC)-	12 th -----	13 th -----	14 th -----	13 th ----->
	11 15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th

Figure 4

Statistics and Computer Modelling

Short online and in-person courses starting Wednesday 6 January 2021 and on consecutive Fridays.

PhD Project Development and Evaluation

Before UCL's closure for the Christmas vacation, students are required to submit their 2 project choices, of equal interest. The DTP Director and Deputy Director will consult with the DTP Management Board to decide which project will be allocated to each student, subject to ratification in early January 2021 by the DTP Governing Council. Throughout term 2, DTP students will meet their supervisory team and develop a suite of PhD-related key documents, including a PhD project plan, for submission in early March 2021 to the DTP's Director and Deputy Director. Before heading off on the Field Trip (see next section), DTP

students are also required to give an oral presentation of their PhD plan to their peers, DTP PhD committee and DTP Management Board in March 2021.

Note that final approval of each student's project is conditional on a satisfactory quality of their oral presentation and a suitable standard of their suite of PhD-related documents.

Field Trip

In previous years the entire cohort has attended a 10-day student-led field trip in early to mid-March. The cohort takes the lead in designing and delivering the content, with a dual focus on geological and biological samples and locations. This is currently subject to the restraints of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Term 3 Annual Summer Conference

This is a student-organised event, scheduled to take place in the first half of September in each academic year. The event is planned, led and run by DTP students – in 2020 by cohort 5; in 2021 by Cohort 6, etc. It includes student talks and posters, workshops on public engagement and there is scope for meetings with potential Associate Partners.

Please note that London NERC DTP students are expected to attend in each year of their studies. It is mandatory for students to attend this conference in at least two of the four years of their studentship. Students are expected to present a poster during the conference hosted by their cohort, and then an oral presentation at a subsequent conference.

Finance

NERC maintenance **stipend** for 2020-21 is £17285 per annum. This is inclusive of a London allowance of £2,000 and paid, in advance, in monthly instalments, while at UCL. First payment will be made by cheque within 2 weeks of enrolment or via BACS transfer, if bank details have been supplied in sufficient time by students. If you transfer to another DTP Partner institution at the mid-point of the first year of the programme, then you will be subject to their payment dates and procedures - the DTP does not control this.

NERC **fees** for 2020-21 are £4407 per annum. These are paid for each student by the DTP to the relevant host institution - students do not pay this fee.

Oyster Card contribution - The DTP will make a payment to each student towards travel costs incurred during training. This will be paid by cheque after the programme starts.

Enrolment

This year enrolment is being conducted online, information can be found [here](#). Please ensure that you have pre-enrolled - guidance can be found [here](#). In order to set up your user ID and password, please follow the [UCL guidance](#). If you have any problems with your password, please [visit the MyAccount FAQs](#) or contact [ISD](#) (the UCL Information Services Division, our IT team) by emailing servicedesk@ucl.ac.uk.

ID card collection

You will be able to collect your ID card when you arrive on campus. You will be able to collect your ID card from a hub on campus. You can book a timeslot to collect your ID card when you complete module registration and you'll be sent a confirmation email once you've booked a slot, which will confirm where you should go and what you should bring with you. You must be fully enrolled first and have received your email headed 'Confirmation of your enrolment at UCL' before you book your slot and you must show this confirmation email when you come onto campus to collect your ID card. It is very important that you only attend at the time specified, not before or after, to help us manage the number of people on campus safely.

ISD will be currently taking bookings for the 14th - 18th September for new and returning students to collect their ID cards from the front quad. We advise that you [Book an appointment now](#).

Some further things to note

During the course of your training you will be occasionally required to travel to each of the DTP Partners – not all of them are based in London and you should take this into account when planning your weekly schedule.

A record will be set up on the Joint Electronic Submissions system (Je-S) for you. Your Je-S record provides NERC with information about your studentship and project and it is a condition of your studentship that this is kept up-to-date – we will do this on your behalf. However you will be sent annual copies of your record for you to check and you will need to send any necessary amendments to the DTP office for them to add.

You will also need to submit material each year to the DTP's annual report and also to Researchfish (in years 3 and 4). For each task, support and guidance will be available.

If you transfer to another DTP Partner institution to undertake your allocated PhD project, then your DTP application will be forwarded to them for their records, if they request it, to enable them to register you there. Some institutions require that you complete their own application – if they do, please do so promptly when asked to fulfil this requirement.

Please note that, in line with current legislation, the DTP and your host institution will keep your application and other student records on file until a year after your studentship ends.