

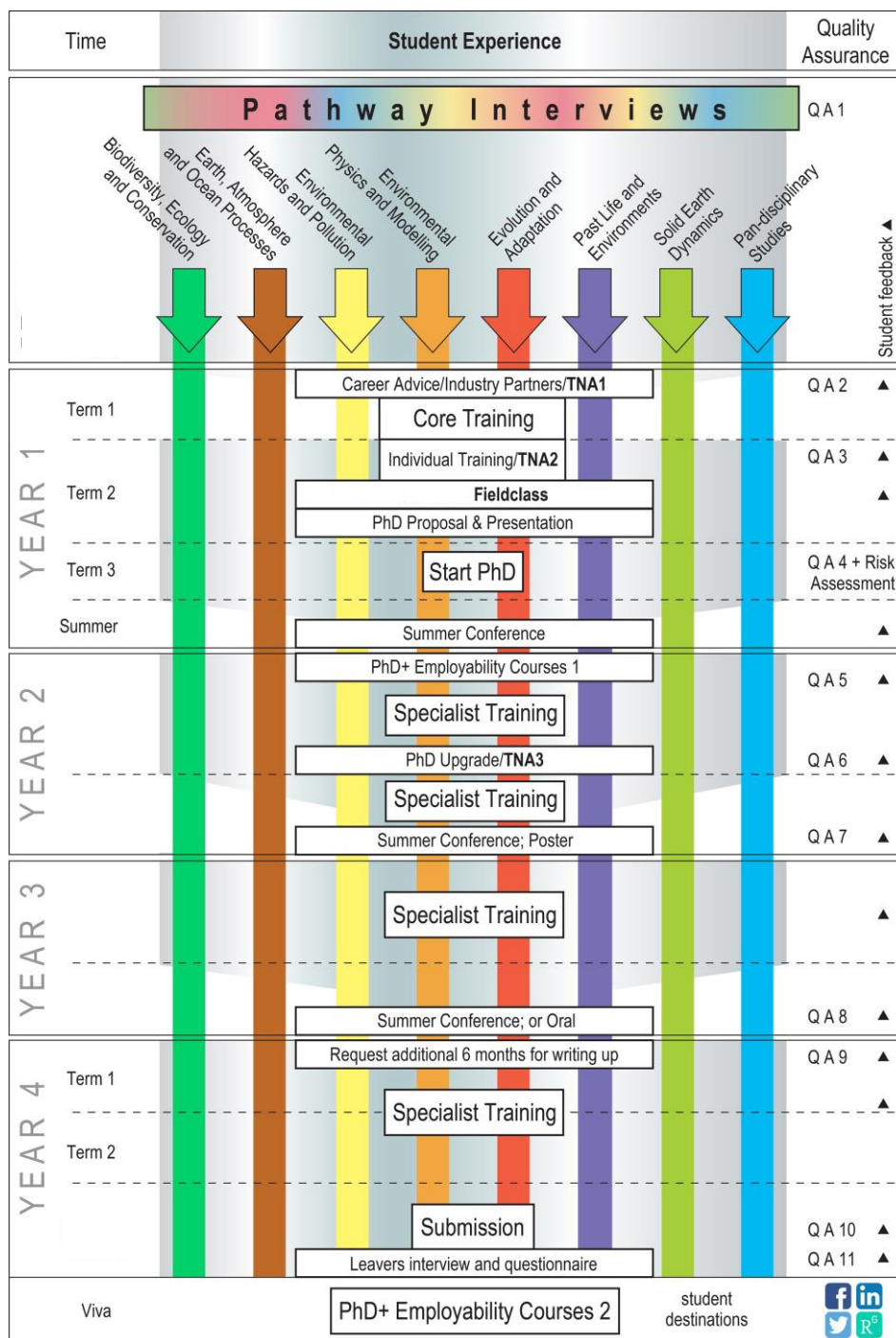
London NERC DTP Brief Guide for Students 2022-23



This brief guide provides a simple overview of the DTP programme. **Induction week** starts on Monday 26th 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 - 2022/23 overview

2022

Term 1 and the DTP Programme starts on Monday 26th September. Weekly structure, content and dates are summarised below on pages 3-5.

UCL closes for Christmas break: Friday 23rd December - 17.30

2023

UCL re-opens after Christmas break: Tuesday 3rd January - 09.00

Term 2 - Training structure, content and dates are summarised below on pages 5-6.

Scheduled to take place in the first half of March:

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

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

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

Figure 2 shows the generalized 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 Friday' events.
- a day set aside for students to network individually with potential supervisors and reflect on their learning experience, often on Thursday but varies from week to week.



Figure 2

Training hosted by Partner institutions

On 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	26/09	UCL	David Thornalley d.thornalley@ucl.ac.uk DTP Office londonnercdtp.admin@ucl.ac.uk	Induction / Earth System Science
2	03/10	UCL	Phillip Mannion p.mannion@ucl.ac.uk Susan Little susan.little@ucl.ac.uk	Earth Dynamics
3	10/10	RHUL	Simon Blockley Simon.Blockley@rhul.ac.uk	Past Climates
4	17/10	BBK	Stefan Engels s.engels@bbk.ac.uk	Natural Processes & Hazards
5	24/10	QMUL	Mark Trimmer m.trimmer@qmul.ac.uk Stuart Grieve s.grieve@qmul.ac.uk	Ecosystem Science
6	31/10	KCL	Nicholas Drake nick.drake@kcl.ac.uk	Earth Surface Processes
7	07/11	UCL	Daniel Verscharen d.verscharen@ucl.ac.uk	Space Hazards
8	14/11	BRUNEL	Andreas Kortenkamp andreas.kortenkamp@brunel.ac.uk	Environmental Hazards & Pollution Hazards
9	21/11	IoZ	Helen Robertson helen.robertson@nhm.ac.uk	Evolution
10	28/11	NHM	Chris Carbone chris.carbone@ioz.ac.uk	Conservation & Behaviour
11	05/12	UCL	David Thornalley d.thornalley@ucl.ac.uk	Broader engagement (Part 1)
12	12/12	UCL	David Thornalley d.thornalley@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.

PhD Project Development and Evaluation

Before UCL's closure for the Christmas break, students are required to submit their 2 project choices which are of equal interest to the student. The DTP Director and Deputy Director will consult with members of the DTP Management Board to decide which project will be allocated to each student, subject to ratification in early January 2023 by the DTP Governing Council.

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	
January							
	1	2 nd Jan 2023 –UCL closed	3 rd Stats/Modelling preparation	4 th Stats/Modelling preparation	5 th Stats/Modelling preparation	6 th TBC – Project allocation and outline of proposal writing	
	2	9 th Stats/Modelling	10 th Stats/Modelling	11 th Stats/Modelling	12 th Stats/Modelling	13 th Stats/Modelling	
February	3	16 th	PhD Project Development			19 th Field Trip prep event	20 th Stats/Modelling
	4	23 rd				26 th Proj. Develop.	27 th Stats/Modelling
	5	30 th				2 nd Proj. Develop.	3 rd Stats/Modelling
	6	6 th				9 th Field Trip prep event	10 th Stats/Modelling
March	7	13 th	PhD Project Development				17 th Proj. Develop.
	8	20 th					24 th Field Trip preparation
	9	27 th					3 rd Field Trip preparation
	10	6 th Field Trip (TBC)-	7 th -----	8 th -----	9 th -----	10 th ----->	
11	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th		

Figure 4

Statistics and Computer Modelling

Short online and in-person courses, preparation starting Tuesday 3rd January 2023, in-person from Monday 9th January 2022 and on consecutive Fridays.

PhD Project Development and Evaluation

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 2023 to the DTP. Before heading off on the Field expedition (see next section), DTP students are also required to give an oral presentation of their PhD plan to their peers, the DTP PhD committee, and DTP Management Board in March 2023.

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 Expedition

As in previous years, the entire cohort will attend a ≈10-day student-led field - expedition 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, normally 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 2021 by cohort 6; in 2022 by Cohort 7, 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 three 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

You will receive a maintenance **stipend** each year, which for 2022-23 is £18,062 per annum (this amount is currently under review). 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 within 2 weeks of enrolment via BACS transfer, provided bank details have been supplied to UCL 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 2022-23 are £4,596 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 one-off payment to each student towards travel costs incurred during training. This will be paid after the programme starts.

Pre-enrolment/Enrolment

This year enrolment is being conducted online, information can be found [here](#). A series of online inductions, such as 'Getting started with UCL's library services' can be found [here](#).

Information about 'Your journey to joining UCL' can also be found [here](#).

ID card collection

ID cards for new students are issued by appointment only via UCL's ID card booking system. Appointments are held in the Andrew Huxley Building, on the main campus; the booking system will confirm the location of your appointment.

Please ensure you have received an email to confirm your enrolment has been completed before you book an appointment. Your appointment can then be booked [here](#).

Student Support and Disability

There is always help and support available to you during your time with the DTP and you can contact us at londonnercdtp.admin@ucl.ac.uk to speak to the team or ask to speak to someone confidentially.

Whilst you are initially registered at UCL there is extensive student support available to you [here](#). If, from term 3, you are allocated to a project away from UCL, each of our partner institutions also provide extensive student support and the DTP is always here for you to contact.

Information for students with disabilities can be found [here](#). If you think you might need support, please complete the UCL Applicant Support Questionnaire, which is available on [Portico](#) under the Student Disability Services tab. Similar support will be available to you at the DTP partner institutions if you are allocated to a project away from UCL from term 3.

Some further things to note

During your training you will be 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 respond with any necessary amendments, to the DTP office for them to update.

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, 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.