

Update from STFC Education, Training and Careers Committee

Victoria Martin (University of Edinburgh), ETCC chair

PPAP Community Meeting Birmingham, 16th July 2026

ETCC Responsibilities

Education, Training and Careers Committee (ETCC) meets three times a year

- advise the STFC Executive and Science Board on the mission, vision and high-level objectives for skills within STFC's remit, including on relevant policies and strategies
- highlight best practice to STFC for the benefit of the programme
- receive reports from STFC on programme elements and their impact and advise on the development of metrics and the evaluation of the programme.
- oversee the allocation of STFC studentships, the peer review of fellowships, assessment of Long-Term Attachments and assessment of Summer Schools, and the quality of training provided by these programmes
- consider the skills needs of national laboratories
- advise on equality, diversity, and inclusion issues relevant to early career researchers

Membership of ETCC

- Professor Victoria Martin, University of Edinburgh (Chair)
- Dr Laura Corner, University of Liverpool
- Dr Djuna Croon, Durham University
- Dr Christian Diget, University of York
- Dr Cosimo Inserra, Cardiff University
- Dr Peter Millington, The University of Manchester
- Professor Tim Scanlon, University College London
- Professor Oliver Shorttle, University of Cambridge
- Professor Bonnie Steves, University of Glasgow

Supported by the STFC Skills Team:

- George Madden (Associate Director Skills and DRI)
- Nikki Cholod (Senior Programme Manager, Studentships and Fellowships)
- Felcy Fernandes (Programme Manager, Studentships and Ernest Rutherford Fellowships)
- Becky Lyons-Helps (Programme Manager, Studentships and Fellowships)
- Sian Giles-Titcombe (Programme Manager, Studentships and Future Leader Fellowships)

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Particle Physics (ATLAS)

Supported by the STFC Skills Team:

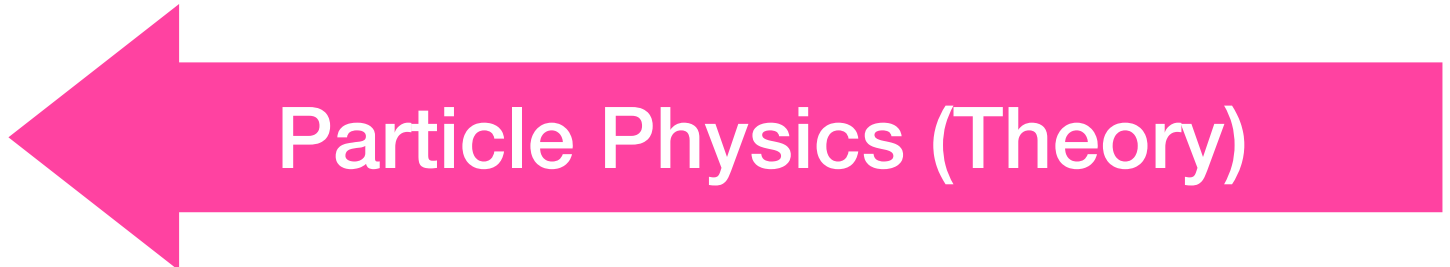
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Particle Physics (ATLAS)



Particle Physics (Theory)

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Membership of ETCC

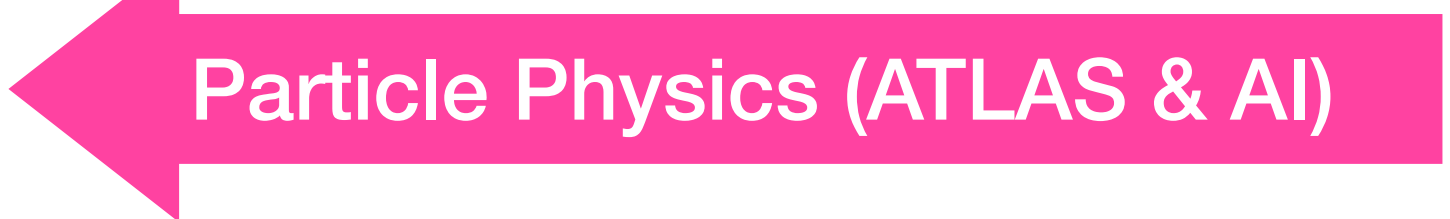
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Particle Physics (ATLAS)



Particle Physics (Theory)



Particle Physics (ATLAS & AI)

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What we do...

In practical terms

- Advise on Doctoral Landscape Award (DLA) PhD studentship allocation
- Review LTA applications for PhD students
- Review STFC Summer School funding applications (e.g. for the High Energy Particle Physics school)
- Advise on Ernest Rutherford Fellowships (ERF) application and selection process.
- Review the ERF ED&I statements that ETCC asks each ERF-eligible department to complete
- Formally a different panel reviews ERF applications, but there is a large overlap with ETCC members. Victoria chairs the ERF application panel.

Advice for the PPAP community

LTA

- PhD student LTA applications are reviewed much more closely than in years gone by.
- If you are applying to STFC for an LTA for your PhD student:
 - Make a case specific to the student: include what they will do on LTA; why they can't get that kind of training in the UK; why they need that period of time on LTA; who will be available for day-to-day supervision
- We are considering asking students to write a short part of the application themselves.
- Once your student is on LTA: try to ensure they are actually actively engaging when abroad, e.g. turning up to the lab / meetings in person.

Advice for the PPAP community

ERF ED&I statements

- The motivation for the ED&I statements is to understand how the departmental selection for ERF candidates is made.
- We are looking for a enough information to give STFC/ETCC confidence that departments have considered ED&I issues as they select which ERF candidates are allowed to apply.

Info for the PPAP community

ERFs

- The ERF scheme has been severely squeezed - only 7 ERFs awarded in the both the 2024 and 2025 calls (from ~180 applications).
- Demand management for ERF applications will continue.
- Small change to the scope of the award this year:
 - ➡ “We welcome projects of all types of research activity. This includes those that develop original theoretical and analytical outputs and those that design and build cutting edge experiments, instrumentation or software development that fundamentally underpin and further research in STFC core business areas.”
- We need many expert reviewers and panel members across all of PPAN areas; if you are asked, please do try to help out if you are able!
- If you are able to stick to any deadlines, you will make the STFC office staff happy!

Info for the PPAP community

Summer School

- Will Barter (Edinburgh) has agreed to take over the running of the STFC HEP summer school from 2027; Yanyan Gao (Edinburgh) will be the interim director for 2026.
- A review of the summer school content and format is ongoing, chaired by Will Barter. (Under PPUAC)
 - ➡ Input will be solicited from the community: survey will be circulated soon
- The Summer School needs tutors to run effectively! Please consider if there is anyone in your group who could be a tutor - recently these have been fellows - but more senior academics would also be welcome.
- If your student is attending the summer school, please encourage them to engage - attending the lectures, tutorials and other academic activities.