

Nuclear Education, Graduate School & Summer School

Report from 2022 and future planning.

David Joss, UK NP Community Meeting, January 2023.

The STFC Nuclear Physics Graduate School

- The Graduate School provides an opportunity for PG students to benefit from expertise and training provided by the broad UK nuclear physics research community.
- A series of courses related to the core nuclear physics objectives of the NP community have been delivered through a blended learning approach that mixes distance learning with residential courses.
- The School implements the recommendation of the 2011 Institute of Physics review of Nuclear Physics that “all of the UK academic nuclear physics groups join to form a UK Centre of Excellence (COE) in nuclear physics.”.

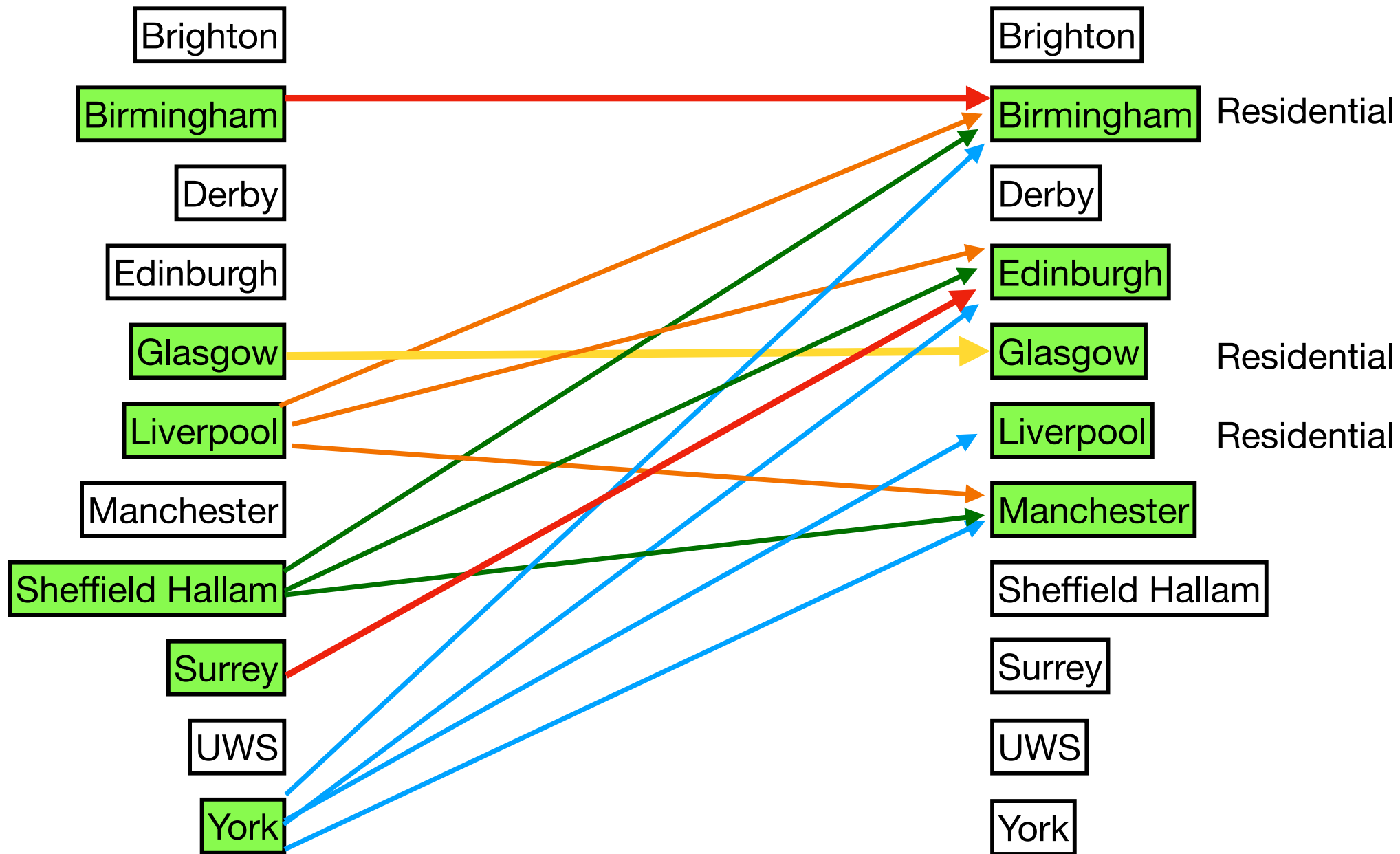
Graduate School Courses

Residential Courses

- Quark and Hadron Spectroscopy (Glasgow) / Organiser: Peter Hurck.
- Hand-On Experiments with the Birmingham Cyclotron (Birmingham) / Organiser: Carl Wheldon.
- Nuclear Instrumentation (Liverpool) / Organisers: Andy Boston, Laura Harkness-Brennan, Ellis Rintoul.

Distance-Learning Courses

- Scientific Writing (Edinburgh) / Organiser: Marialuisa Aliotta.
- Gamma-Ray Emission and Angular Momentum (Manchester) / Organiser: Paul Campbell.



Finances

Generous Grant from STFC £ 74.9k

- Birmingham Cyclotron
 - Accommodation: £3073.00
 - Cyclotron Costs: £700.00
- Liverpool Instrumentation
 - Accommodation: £270.00
 - Training Costs: £1203.12
- Edinburgh Scientific Writing
 - Fees: £1341.00



Total Expenditure = £6587.12

Reasons for Underspend

- Original budget bid for 7 courses (5 delivered).
- Scientific Writing switched to distance learning delivery.
- Quark & Hadron course ran before the contract started.
- Liverpool Instrumentation course had to shift due to Covid.
- Original budget costed for 20 students per course.
 - Fewer students registered. There were 32 student registrations in total.
 - Reluctance to travel due to Covid, rail strikes, ...?

Cost per student attending was in line with initial grant request.

Student Feedback

- Student feedback collated using STFC questionnaire.
- Low number of returns.
- Feedback indicates that the respondents felt the courses were well organised & pitched at the right level.
- Respondents appreciated the 'hands-on' character of the training, the information provided and support given.
- Respondents would recommend our courses to other students.

Future Planning

- Should we bid for further support?
- Are there gaps in our provision?
- Should we organise ourselves differently?
 - Organise the Graduate School along the CDT model / EU Network?
 - Should we be providing training opportunities for PDRAs alongside PG students?
 - (Re-)establish steering committee with wider representation from all groups / fellows?

Actions / Timeline

- Institutions nominate representatives for steering group (Feb 2023).
- Colleagues (academic/PDRA/PGRs) are consulted regarding training needs (March 2023).
- Steering Committee reviews input from consultation.
- Colleagues invited to volunteer courses / commission new courses for 2024 (April 2023).
- Steering Committee coordinates schedule for 2024 and resource request (May 2023).
- Prepare proposal and submit to STFC (October 2023).

STFC Summer School.

- Thanks to Marina Petri and Dan Doherty for organising the last school.
- The next STFC NP Summer School should be 2024.
- Two new directors must be appointed as a matter of urgency.
- Deadline for bid is likely to be October 2023.