The background is a dark blue field filled with numerous small, glowing blue particles of varying sizes. Overlaid on this are several thin, bright blue lines that form a complex, interconnected network, resembling a molecular structure or a data visualization. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and scientific complexity.

# **RAL/PPD PhD Studentship**

## **Practicalities**

# RAL Particle Physics PhD Studentships

❖ RAL Particle Physics Dept. offers 6 funded PhD studentships starting in Autumn 2024:

- Project 1: "ATLAS Studentship in electroweak precision physics & trigger software" (PPD/University College)
- Project 2: "Search for new physics with the FASER experiment at the LHC & prospects at future experiments" (PPD/Liverpool)
- Project 3: "New physics searches with LUX-ZEPLIN & development of next generation dark matter low-background technologies at the Cold Radon Emanation Facility" (PPD/Kings College)
- Project 4: "Investigations of the Migdal effect in elements relevant to dark matter searches using the MIGDAL experiment at the NILE/ISIS facility at the RAL" (PPD/Imperial College)
- Project 5: "Neutrinos as Evidence for Dark Matter & Novel Detector Technologies with LiquidO" (PPD/Sussex)
- Project 6: "Charting New Frontiers in Dark Matter Detection with Atom Interferometry (PPD/Kings College)"

❖ Each studentship has partner university, as RAL can't award degrees.

- Student will be blessed with 2 supervisors (RAL + university)!

# RAL Particle Physics PhD Studentships

❖ Each PhD is 3.5 years long, with typically:

- First 2 terms based at university for lectures/courses there.
- Then year based at RAL, including additional lectures.
- Then year away at experiment (e.g. CERN in Geneva).
- Then back to RAL to complete research & write up thesis.

❖ For each PhD place, the STFC funding agency issues a [PhD grant](#) to the partner university covering its "home fees" & a stipend for the student's living costs & expenses.

(The cost of this is met either solely by RAL/PPD, or shared between RAL & the university).

- If a candidate must pay the more expensive "overseas fees", and can't pay the difference in fees themself, the university sometimes finds a solution, such as waiving its right to charge "overseas" fees, if the candidate is particularly excellent.

# RAL/PPD PhD Open Day Schedule

Details (maps & Zoom links) in <https://indico.stfc.ac.uk/event/959/overview>

- ❖ Morning Pickavance Lecture Theatre (R22) [10-12am]:
  - Presentations on the 6 PhD projects.
  
- ❖ Lunchtime CLF Visitor Centre (R1 basement) [12-1pm]:
  - Sign up for chats with project supervisors on projects that interest you.
  - Sign-up sheet for taxis at end of day.
  
- ❖ Afternoon in PPD (R1 1<sup>st</sup> floor) [1-4pm]: Individual chats with supervisors in 6 small offices.
  - Each chat is 28 mins long + 2 mins transition time.
  - 50% of time for you to ask questions to supervisors. 50% for them to get to know you.
  - In free slots, chat informally to current students/staff in PPD Exhibition Room or relax in Coffee Lounge.
  
- ❖ 4:15pm taxi to Didcot train station (if you request it during lunch break)

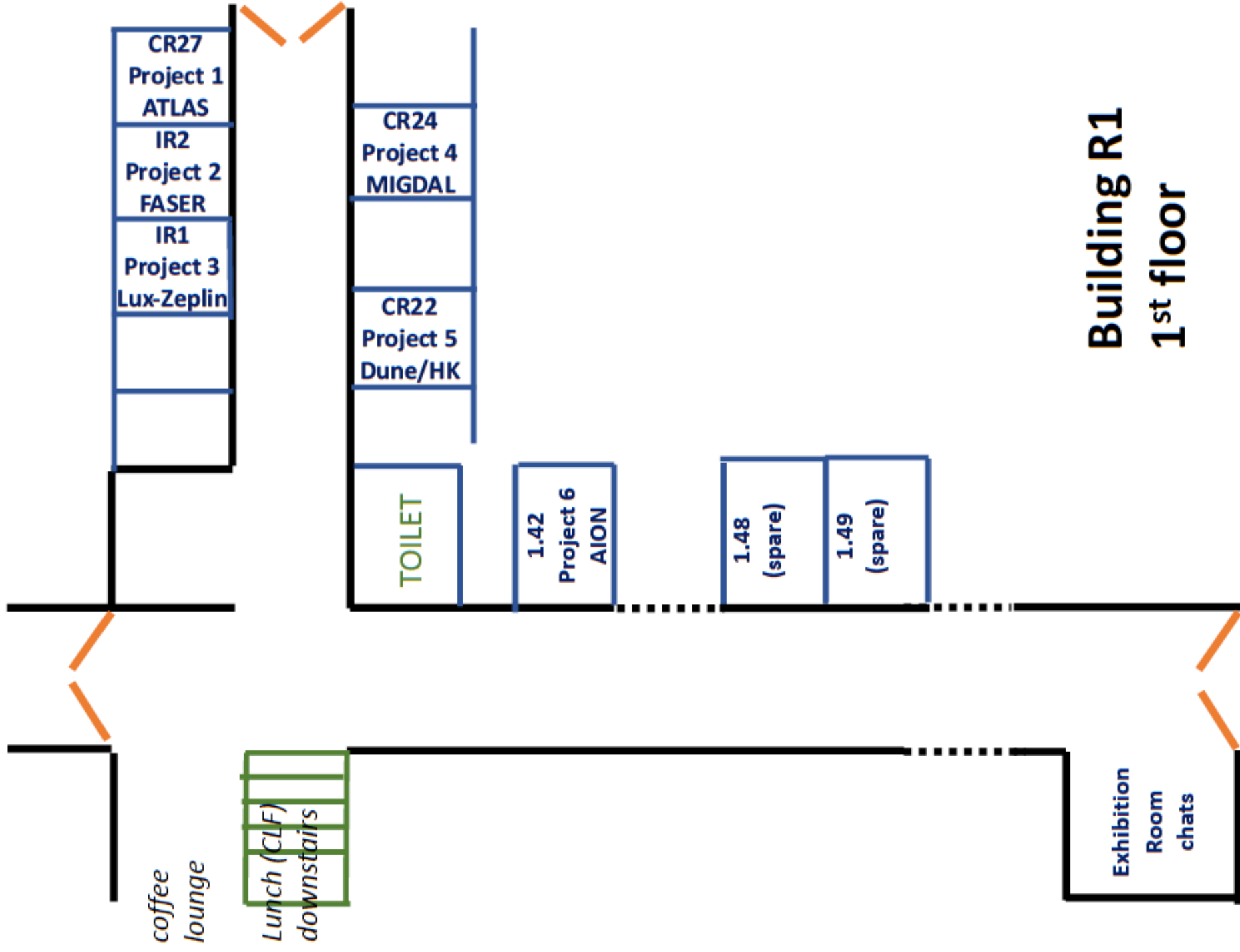
# Schedule of afternoon chats

- ❖ You'll see your chat time slots for chats with project supervisors this afternoon linked here.

## CHAT SCHEDULE

This schedule will change until about 12:45, so please check it then.

- ❖ We've already booked you chats for your 2 favourite projects (from your application form).
- ❖ IMMEDIATELY AFTER the morning session has finished, if additional projects interest you, register for 1 or 2 extra chats by Emailing [ian.tomalin@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:ian.tomalin@stfc.ac.uk), with Email title "Chat", giving your name and a list of these additional projects in decreasing order of preference (e.g. Project 5, Project 2).
- ❖ If a project is fully booked this afternoon, we'll arrange additional Zoom chats for it in the coming few days. We'll contact you by Email to arrange these.



# Building R1 1st floor

# After the Open Day & Chats

- ❖ All students list of all the PhD projects for which they wish to be considered, in decreasing order of preference in survey <https://forms.gle/pdK9PdsNqE2iYaEy6>
  - e.g. 3, 6, 2, 1, 5, 4.
- ❖ The supervisors of each project indicate which students they'd like to invite to formal interview.
- ❖ We assign of students to individual projects.
  - Student submits formal application to partner university (if not already done).
  - Formal interview of student with project supervisors (perhaps as part of university interviews)
  - Successful students will receive an offer from one (and only one) RAL/PPD PhD project.
- ❖ Students claim their travel expenses by submitting this [form](#) to [PAPPDDIRECTOR@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:PAPPDDIRECTOR@stfc.ac.uk) , together with a single photo of all their receipts.