

# POST-GRADUATE INFORMATION AND INDUCTION

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School of Physics

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# Agenda

- Welcome to new students
- M.Sc./Ph.D. Timelines
- People in support
  - Front-of-house
  - Supervisor, Co-supervisor, RSP,
- Modules
- Assessment: Transfer (18 months) Viva (48 months)
- Representation

# Students

Sunil Kumar Chaubey

Chiara Maria Mariani

Dara Murphy

David McKeagney

Eoghan Gallagher

Gregory Corcoran

Hooriah Lodi

José Maria Cruz

Lawrence Guardiano

Lucero Segura Juarez

Michaela Walsh

Nicola Bond

Ovidiu Petrisor

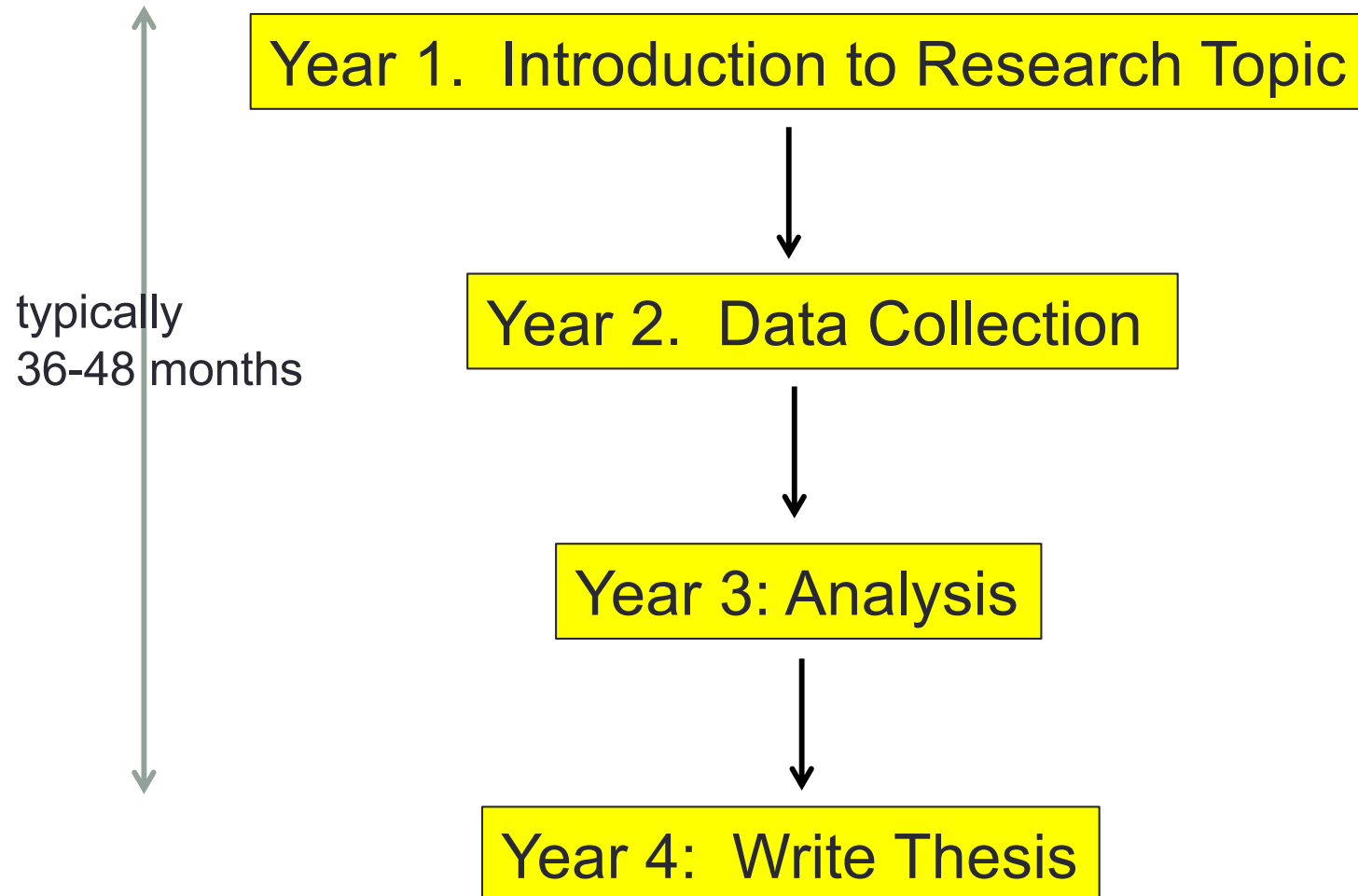
Richard O'Neill

Yevhen Brych

# Undergrad Postgrad Transition

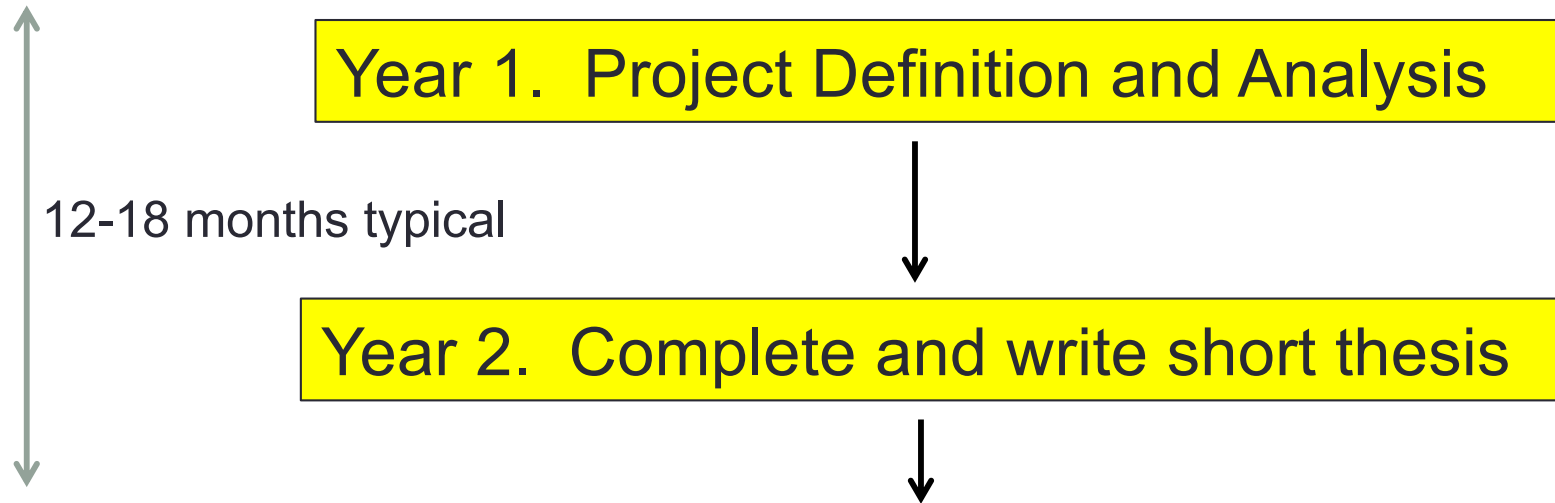
- knowledge consumer -> knowledge provider
  - You become the world expert on a particular element
  - You write original papers that contribute to world knowledge
- Personal responsibility for your research
  - organising your time and your work
  - managing your interactions with other researchers and your supervisor
- Independent thought and judgement
- Perseverance
  - Sometimes it is frustrating when there is no 'instant' solution.

# Ph.D. TimeLine (sample)

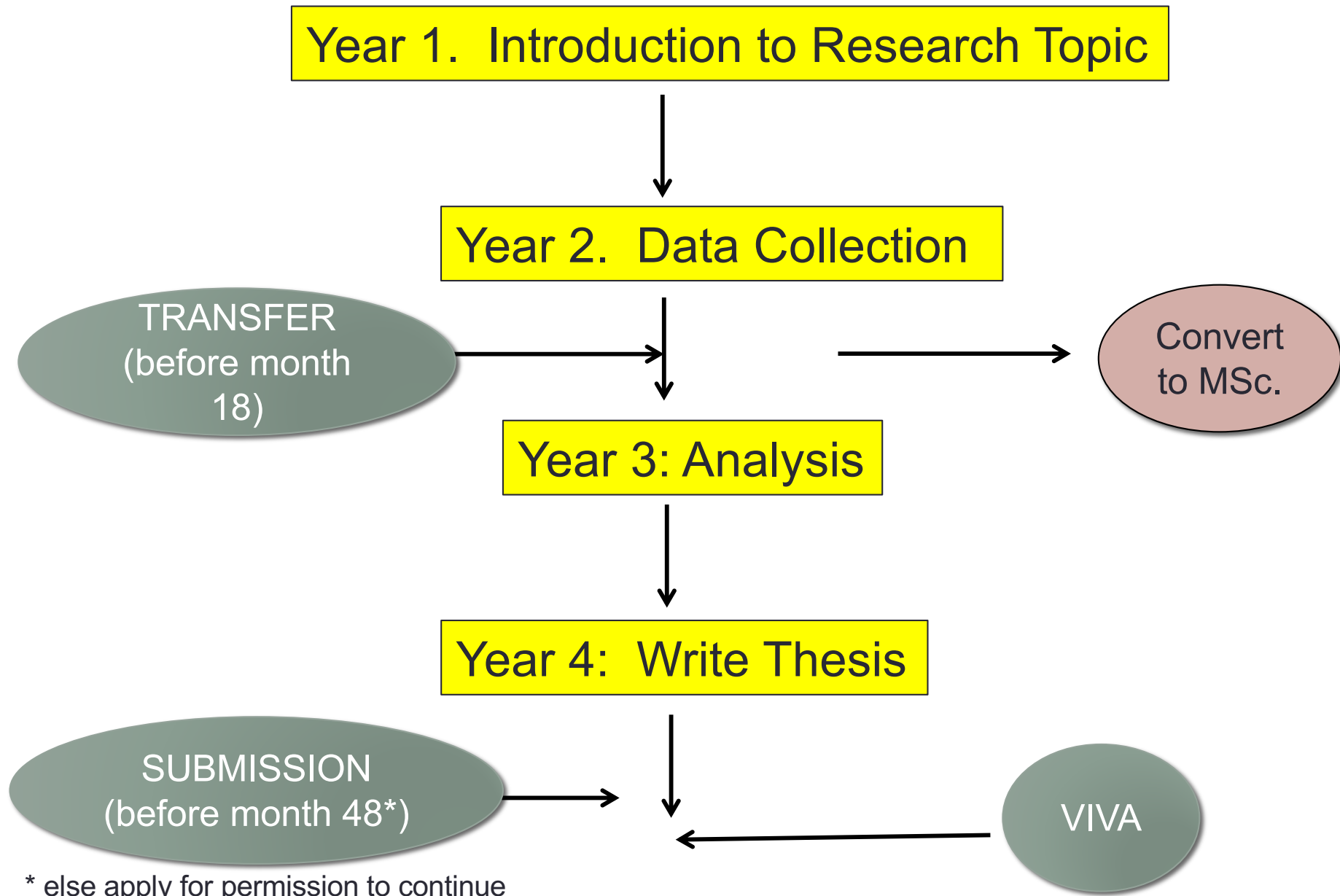


(Your mileage may vary, but discuss with supervisors and DSP if large variance)

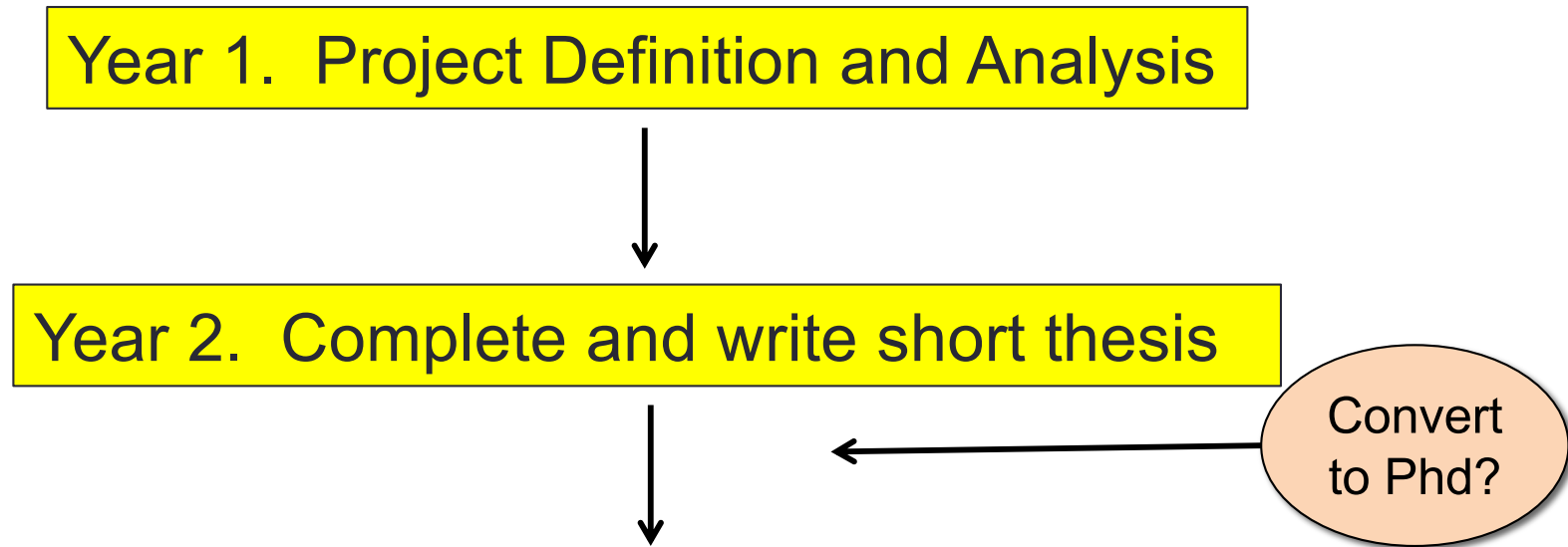
# MSc. TimeLine (sample)



# Ph.D. TimeLine (sample)



# MSc. TimeLine (sample)





# People supporting you: Front-of-House

- Bairbre Fox
- Angela Dunne O'Toole
- Maoliosa Bradley
- Claudia Milena Rodríguez Morales
- Can deal with most administrative issues
  - Registration
  - Expenses
  - Advances
  - Room booking
  - Whom to contact



# People supporting you: Supervisor

- Primary contact
- Research partnership
- Advisor, not (solely) instructor
- Different relationship to undergraduate
- Transition towards independent researcher
- Meet daily / weekly / <monthly
- Formal / Informal
- Strong recommendation: record meetings for review at Transfer.

## Meeting Records (strongly advised)

- Prepare Agenda
- Email to supervisor in advance
- Take notes under each item
- Agree and note action items for next meeting
- File on Infohub – Research - ‘view meetings’



# People supporting you: Co-Supervisor

- Different source of opinion
- Wider collaboration
- Independent voice
- Second line of defence in case of problems

# People supporting you: RSP

- Research Studies Panel consists of:
  - Supervisor
  - Co-supervisor
  - Third member
- Must meet once per year
- Supervisor organises first RSP
- Thereafter: YOUR responsibility to convene RSP
- File report on Infohub

NB. Your RSP is there to HELP.

It cannot sanction.

It's role is to plan and sort out real or potential problems

# People supporting you: Advisors

- Some issues do not fall under RSP or may wish to be raised in a less formal or confidential setting.
- Apart from your supervisor / co-supervisor, you can get independent advice from:
  - Emma Sokell
  - Ronan McNulty



If things are not working-out seek advice  
SOONER rather than LATER  
Problems are best solved by early intervention.

## People in support: UCD student advisors



- Any student matters (from registration to counselling)
  - <http://www.ucd.ie/studentadvisers/>
  - Eamonn Mc Hugh (Postgraduate Research advisor)
  - Megan Kuster & Dani Findley (Advisors for Science)
- Consider joining some student societies/sport /music etc.
  - Make time for exercise each day (Mens sana in corpore sano)
- Student health services (Student centre)
  - [Heep://www.ucd.ie/health/contact](http://www.ucd.ie/health/contact)
- Student Union
  - <https://www.ucdsu.ie/sabbatical-officers>
  - Carla Gummerson (Graduate sabbatical officer)



# Further links for support

- School of Physics staff available for reporting and initial support
  - Bairbre Fox (School Manager, [Bairbre.Fox@ucd.ie](mailto:Bairbre.Fox@ucd.ie))
  - Tom McCormack (Head of Teaching & Learning, [tom.mccormack@ucd.ie](mailto:tom.mccormack@ucd.ie))
  - Sheila McBreen (Head of Research, [sheila.mcbreen@ucd.ie](mailto:sheila.mcbreen@ucd.ie))
  - Emma Sokell (Head of School, [emma.sokell@ucd.ie](mailto:emma.sokell@ucd.ie))
- UCD:
  - Any emergency on campus contact Estate Services on x7999 or 01 716 7999
  - Student support services:  
<https://www.ucd.ie/studentcentre/services/studentsupport/>
  - Reporting for students and staff - dedicated confidential e-mail:  
[dignityandrespect@ucd.ie](mailto:dignityandrespect@ucd.ie)
  - Anonymous reporting and support: <https://reportandsupport.ucd.ie/>
  - UCD Equality Diversity and Inclusion supports:  
<https://www.ucd.ie/equality/support/>
  - Current Review of UCD's Dignity and Respect Policy:  
<https://www.ucd.ie/equality/support/dignityrespect/dignityrespectreview/>



# Modules

- You need to take 30 credits during your Ph.D., at least 10 of which must be from UCD
- Typically 100 hours= 5 credits.
- Prior learning can be recognised eg. MSc., Diplomas, Course work, professional experience (up to 20 credits)
- Specified learning can give credits (e.g. assigned reading or course work / online lectures / workshops / schools)
- Modules:
  - **Compulsory: Teaching and Demonstrating PHYC40570**
  - Discipline specific modules (talk to your supervisor)
  - Scientific Writing SCI50030: recommend to take when you are preparing your Transfer Report
  - Research Ethics SCI50020 (online!)
  - Research Skills SCI50010 (online!)
  - Physics Grad Research Skills PHYC50210, PHYC50220.
  - Programming (e.g. COMP41680)
  - Entrepreneurship (see Innovation Academy modules)
  - Languages
  - etc.

# Assessment: Stage Transfer

- Independent body that will assess whether you should progress to Stage 2 of Ph.D.
- Consists of:
  - Chair + two members (not supervisor)
- Transfer requires
  - Report (~10 pages)
  - Presentation (~15 minutes)
  - Interview (~15 minutes)

# Assessment: Stage Transfer

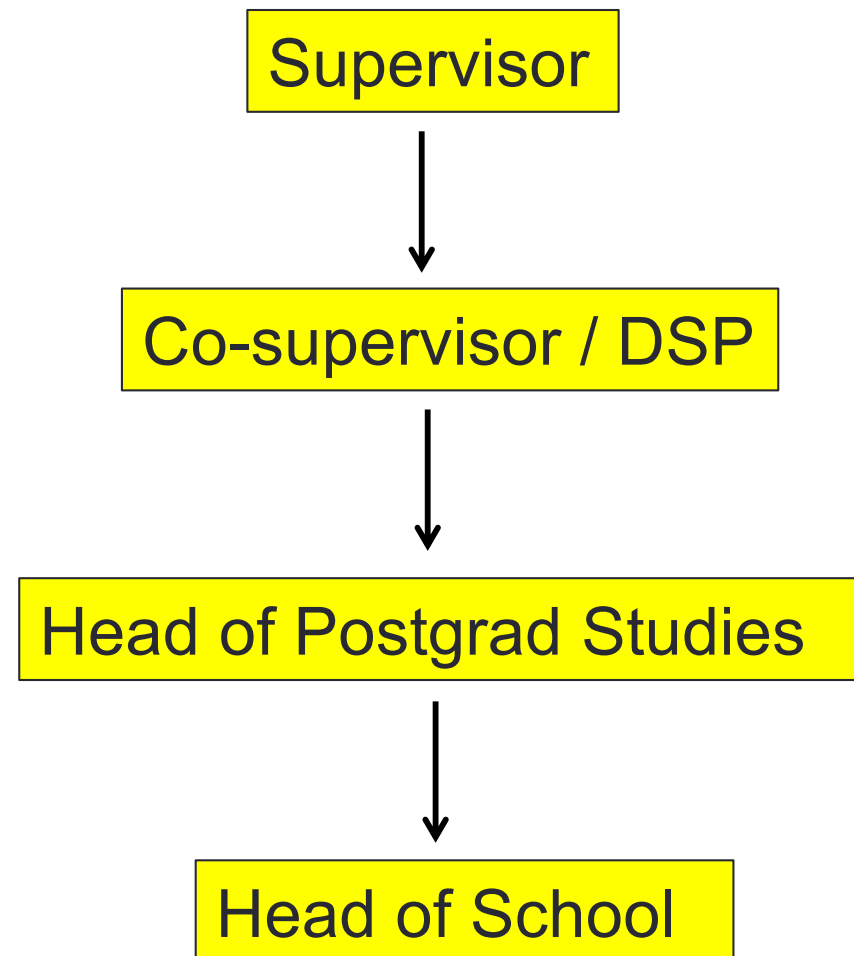
- **Presentation:** You will give a mini-seminar (15 minutes).
  - ~50% should be dedicated to an overview of your area appropriate for non-experts
  - ~50% should give specific results you have obtained to date.
  - One slide should deal with your plans for the future.
- **Report**
  - About 10 pages long written to show an understanding of the subject
  - Write for the non-expert (final year undergraduate).
  - Show your understanding
  - Give your results to date
  - Outline your plan for the future.
- **Interview**
  - About 15 minutes. Committee are judging whether you have attained an appropriate level of knowledge, competence and independence, and ***if you have a plan.***
- **Outcomes**
  - Progress to Ph.D.
  - Retake Transfer in 6 months
  - Transfer to MSc.
  - Exit

# Assessment: Viva Panel

- Independent body that will assess whether you should be awarded a Ph.D.
- Consists of:
  - Chair + external examiner + internal examiner (not supervisor)
- Ph.D. assessment requires
  - Report (~100-150 pages)
  - Presentation (30-40 minutes)
  - Interview (2+ hours)

# Representation

- There are two postgrad representatives at (~monthly) School Meetings
  - Nicola Bond, Allencris JRR
- They can bring up any general postgrad issues with me, or at School meetings.
- They also organise pizza and postgrad evenings. (discussions / table quiz / lunch etc.)



# Seminars & Colloquia



- Organised by Antonio Benedetto
- Seminars usually take place Thursday at 3pm
- **You are expected to attend.**
- PhD./MSc. requires a broad as well as deep appreciation of physics.
- First half of seminars will be pitched at undergraduate level
- You will be questioned on physics outside your core area, as reflected in the Seminars, in your Transfer and possibly your Viva.

# Your Responsibilities

- Regular attendance
- Be proactive with your research project and skills training
- Take responsibility for documenting meeting records
- Show consideration to others sharing your office and lab
- Prepare for and organise your annual DSP
- Act in a professional and ethical manner (e.g. no plagiarism)
- Read the literature
- Support the work of your research group



Any Questions?