

BSG Post-Graduate Training Workshop

Windsor, UK, 3-6 December 2018

Report on the BSG Post-Graduate Training Workshop 2018

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Last December I had the opportunity to participate to the BSG Post Graduate training workshop held in Windsor, UK.

The course lasted four days, from 3rd December to 6th December 2018, four eventful days in a friendly environment. The first positive side was the location of the workshop: the Cumberland Lodge, a refined accommodation located in the middle of the Great Park. Given the period, the lodge was all adorned with Christmas decorations, which gave to the location even a more suggestive atmosphere.

The course was well organized with lots of activities. All the speakers were very clear and motivated in their lectures and open to discuss with the participants.

On Monday 3rd, arrival day, we had an icebreaker session where we introduced ourselves and briefly presented our project. We attended lectures regarding the nature of the PhD and the importance of the use of social media, as Twitter, to spread our ideas, promote ourselves and keep contact with people dealing with our topic.

On Tuesday 4th, almost all the day was occupied by a really interesting and useful project planning exercise in small groups: each group had to plan a 3years project on a given topic and after to expose it in a short presentation to the other students. It was a good exercise, fun due to the collaboration with other people and helpful to understand how to better organize our own PhD and to fix clear and achievable objectives.

The third day was super intense: after our unfailing English breakfast, the day started with a brief introduction followed by a practical session on the Python software. Afterwards, we moved to the park that surrounds the lodge for a short fieldwork.



Figure 2: Early morning walk into the Great Park.

In the afternoon, we had the occasion to present our own PhD project, with students that have similar interests. In my opinion, this was a real useful session, because we presented the project in a small group and we had time to share experiences and advices.

And here we are at the last day, December 6th: despite we were little tired from the previous days, almost all of us decided to have an early breakfast to have time to enjoy the last moment and the Cumberland Lodge and have a relaxing walk along the park. It was shorter than the others and the



Figure 1: The Cumberland Lodge.

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sessions were concentrated in the morning, with the departure after lunch. The last session was focused on how to write and publish a scientific paper.

Every night, after dinner, we usually had a short session followed by a little talk with former PhD students that shared their experiences with us.

Bright spot also the meals, always had all together sit at a long table, with delicious dishes. These recreational moments were always great because they enabled to speak with different people and have a good time. In fact, not only the 'organized' talks were fundamental, but also the tasty coffee breaks or the after dinners, when, in front a cup of tea or playing a match at the ping pong table, I had the occasion to talk informally with professors, to get to know other students better and to share with them experiences, fears and ideas.



Figure 3: The PhD students attending the workshop.

To sum up, despite the short length of the course, I consider this workshop as a positive experience, full of ideas and motivation. I strongly suggest to apply at this workshop to all the students at the beginning of their PhD, to learn more about the nature of a PhD and to share experiences with other students. I'm really grateful to the IAG that offered to me the chance to attend to this workshop.

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