Departmental Training Strategy / Statement for the CDT in AIMS

The DPhil is a period of professional research training and personal development leading to a good general knowledge of your subject and a significant and substantial piece of research. Normally it provides the major step in your progress towards becoming a fully-fledged independent researcher. This professional training supports you in developing advanced specialist skills and knowledge, and broader transferable career skills. Together, all of these elements of the DPhil provide the means for you to develop a set of skills that are of value for a range of careers which achieve economic, industrial and societal impact. Doctoral education and training in the department / CDT is therefore designed and implemented explicitly to support these principles. It aims to support each DPhil student in successfully completing their doctorate and transitioning into their career through a range of measures including:

- In collaboration with your supervisor, the opportunity to tailor your training programme by selecting from the wide range of training provision available that covers research, academic and transferable career skills. Training is available through departments and other providers throughout the University.

- Timely and appropriate career advice, mentoring and support for the development of individual career plans and mentoring.

- Ensuring that supervisors are supported and well-equipped to support your progress.

- Clearly defined milestones to enable you to manage your progress effectively.

- Use of the Graduate Supervision System (GSS) for timely reporting and recording information about training.

- An articulated core training programme covering the basic skills you will need.

- Individual training needs identification.

- Induction, covering key aspects of practice and procedures in the research group, department, division and University.

- Mechanisms for individual support eg GSS reporting; regular discussions with supervisors and DGS; Transfer and Confirmation procedures.

- Designing a tailored training / development programme for the individual; this will take in learning opportunities of different forms: examples might be mentoring and support from the supervisor; appropriate courses; learning on the job.