

# News from PPUAC

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# What is PPUAC ?

The Particle Physics Users Advisory Committee

Meets twice per year at RAL, one representative per UK group

I am your representative, recently unanimously re-elected providing Edinburgh with strength and stability in discussions

Meetings discuss:

- Studentships: allocation, LTA (accommodation/insurance), RAL summer school
- PPD matters: Finances, insurance, LTAs, restructuring of RAL PPD group
- UKLO
- News from ACCU

Last meetings 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017

# ETCC

## RAL summer school

Big topic of discussion is summer school

Yearly report on school, using input from the questionnaire you fill out at the end of the school. Generally feedback is good – apart from issues with catering.

One concern is program of summer school ok. Does it duplicate courses taught already ?

## Studentships

This year studentships rain down on us: 85 new CDT places created in the budget

Some concern from STFC that too many students finish in 4 years rather than the 3.5 years funding is for. STFC investigating sanction possibilities.

Student insurance provider changed. See the PPD website. Note this only covers you on LTA. For short trips you must obtain insurance from your university.

# PPD

## New website

- Contact information, information on LTAs, insurance, UKLO

<https://www.ppd.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/home.aspx>

## Insurance

Short summary: Don't have an accident

Longer summary: Don't have an accident, make sure you are insured, make sure you have done all the safety courses (liability). If you are the safety officer make sure that people have done the safety course.

Note: CERN team leaders are now safety officers for their groups

# PPD

## LTAs

- Long long discussions
- Complexities of the tax situation for (non-student) LTAs in France
- Harmonization of the terms of LTA conditions
- Recent concerns: fall in pound means LTA more expensive. Flat cash means less LTAs or less generous LTAs. Discussions ongoing on this. Concerns that STFC should not support long-term LTAs that are a lifestyle choice

# UKLO

- Life @ CERN
- News on LTA accommodation, set guidelines on room quality
- Vans

# ACCU

- Advisory Committee of CERN Users (The CERN analogous committee, 2 representatives per country)
- Each PPUAC meeting we have reports from our representatives
- News:
  - CERN afs will finish at the end of the year. (Be warned/very afraid)
  - Security @ CERN tightened: turnstiles introduced + CCTV. Don't leave luggage unattended ( 1 suspect device removed per month)
  - Don't use Amazon to deliver private mail to cern
  - Online Team leaders course now running --> Team leaders should do
  - CERN considering user induction day
  - CERN related Phds should be on CDS
  - Hostel has 80 new rooms available in building 38