

Call for proposals for Student-led Conferences in 2025! Submission deadline 31 October!

Following very successful events in 2016-24, GRADnet is once again offering PhD students the opportunity to organise and run a 1-day workshop or 1-day conference on a physics topic of their choosing. Student organisers will be expected to encourage the active participation of their peers in giving talks and / or poster presentations. In addition, organisers will be able to invite external speakers to attend should they wish.

We anticipate that **2** workshops on different topics will be organised in the following areas:

- astrophysics / astronomy
- particle / nuclear physics
- condensed matter / atomic physics
- quantum technology
- theoretical physics
- or any other area of physics with sufficient critical mass across the SEPnet partners to run a successful workshop. Moreover inter-disciplinary bids on themes merging any of the above physics areas are also welcome.

A budget of up to £4000 will be available to each workshop that can be used to:

- Support the attendance of SEPnet students (15-30); cover venue/AV hire and catering costs
- Invite and support the participation of high profile presenters
- Cover any other reasonable expenses.

The 2 selected workshops will run in parallel from 10:00-20:00 on Wednesday, 19 March 2025 at International Students House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1B 1PF, sharing, catering and venue facilities.

To make a bid: Fill in the below template with all the relevant details and return to Cristobel Soares, gradnet@sepnet.ac.uk by **31 October 2024**.

For details of this year's two parallel conferences which took place on 13 March 2024 please click [here](#). You may wish to contact the student organisers for their perspective on the benefits of organising conferences like these:

- **Quantum Futures: the second quantum revolution and how it will impact research and industry** led by PhD Student Joe Aziz at RHUL: *"Organising the SEPnet student led conference was a great experience in many ways. It was a thoroughly enjoyable process; Cristobel helped us out every step of the way so that we had the opportunity to plan and personalise the event as we saw fit. This meant we were able to make an event that we ourselves would love to attend. Not only was it a great opportunity to build organisational and communication skills but it was also a great way to meet new people who work in Physics. In my case I made some new friends from the students that attended the event and have since been to visit them in Oxford to see their department, office and hear more about their work in person. On top of this you are naturally in contact with the speakers for your event which could be professors from various universities or people who work in industry. Again, in my case this has led to me hearing about new quantum technology events that I probably wouldn't have known about without being in contact with these people. And then the day itself was such a fun experience - meeting new people, hearing about new research around the country and enjoying some lovely food in the breaks and the dinner! I would highly recommend people to take this opportunity on!"*
- **Physics is YOU! Celebrating diversity and discussing challenges in physics** led by PhD Student Akeem Hart at QMUL and his organising team; Margaret-Ann Withington and Kymani Armstrong-Williams (Queen Mary University of London) Jess Lock (University of Sussex) Mattia Emma and Leah Wolf (Royal Holloway, University of London).

Kind regards
Cristobel

Student-led GRADnet Conferences

Organise your 1-day Physics Conference or Workshop

GRADnet is offering PhD students the opportunity to organise and run a one-day workshop or mini conference on a Physics topic of their choosing. Student organisers will be expected to encourage the active participation of their peers in giving talks and/or poster presentations. In addition, organisers will be able to invite external speakers to attend should they wish.

This is the eighth year that this scheme has run. The student-led conference this year was amongst the most successful events organised by GRADnet and attracted over 50 delegates in total.

We anticipate that two workshops on different topics will be organised. We anticipate (but this is not a necessary requirement) that they will be organised in areas of physics taken from (i) astrophysics/astronomy; (ii) particle/nuclear physics; (iii) condensed matter/atomic physics; (iv) quantum technology; (v) theoretical physics or (vi) any other area of physics with sufficient critical mass across the SEPnet partners to run a successful workshop. Moreover, inter-disciplinary bids on themes merging any of the above physics areas are also welcome.

The two workshops will run in parallel on Wednesday, 19 March 2025, arrival from 10:00 sharing catering and venue facilities.

A budget of up to £4000 will be available to each workshop that can be used to:

- Support the attendance (travel and food) of SEPnet students
- Invite and support the participation of high-profile presenters
- Cover any other reasonable expenses.

A budget of this size should enable a workshop with 15-30 attendees to be organised. Students organising a workshop will be required to establish an organising committee amongst themselves with clearly defined roles for the different members. Student organisers will receive the benefits of regular mentoring and support from appropriate and experienced academic staff and the logistical support of the GRADnet Director. In addition, a steering group to co-ordinate logistics between the two parallel workshops will be formed with one member from each organising committee and the GRADnet Director.

Topic Selection and Organisational Processes

Workshop proposal

Students wishing to organise a workshop will be asked to submit a formal proposal by **31 October** to gradnet@sepnet.ac.uk using the template provided.

Selection process

Proposals will be considered by GRADnet. Proposals will be judged and the best accepted according to the criteria within the bid template. The outcome of this selection process will be announced in November 2024.

Workshop planning

Successful applicants will be asked to form an organising committee and to nominate their steering group representative by December 2024. Each committee will be assigned a mentor. Committees will be issued with a set of guidance notes.

Committees should meet typically (electronically if necessary) at least once per month with their mentors. They should ensure that minutes of these meetings are lodged with the GRADnet Director in the run up to the workshop events.

Workshop events

There is no pre-required format for the workshops save that they run from 10:00 to 20:00 and that they are held within budget.

Cristobel Soares
September 2024

**Student-Led
Residential Physics GRADnet Workshops**

Application template

Proposed workshop title:

Lead applicant:	
University:	
Year of PhD (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd etc):	
Contact email:	

(Duplicate the following rows as required. Applications from groups of students, especially those spanning multiple SEPnet partners will be viewed more favourably than those from individuals)

Co-applicant (s)	
University:	
Year of PhD (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd etc)	

<p>Describe the primary aims and objectives of the proposed workshop. (200 words maximum)</p> <p><i>(Applications that demonstrably serve to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• widen the Physics knowledge</i> <i>• or advance the Physics research and</i> <i>• broaden the experience</i> <p><i>of those attending will be viewed positively.)</i></p>

<p>Describe the format of the proposed workshop. (200 words maximum)</p> <p><i>(Applications that demonstrate evidence of a</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• strong student participation in workshop delivery</i> <i>• clear and appropriate structure</i> <p><i>will be viewed positively.)</i></p>

Describe the likely workshop participants and how you intend to attract them to the workshop. For instance, do you intend to invite external speakers; is the workshop aimed at one particular sub-group of SEPnet students; would you anticipate others wanting to attend this workshop and if so, how will you advertise it? (200 words maximum)

(Applications that demonstrate strong evidence of

- thought in who the audience is and*
- why that audience will wish to participate*

will be viewed positively.)

Describe collaborative aspects of the proposed workshop? (200 words maximum)

(SEPnet through GRADnet wishes to promote collaborations between partner institutes. Applications that demonstrate strong evidence of collaborative engagement will be viewed positively.)

How do you envisage using the proposed budget? (200 words maximum)

(Applications that demonstrate strong evidence of being affordable within the budget of £4000 will be viewed positively.)