Bristol Summer School on Probabilistic Techniques in Computer Science, 6-11 July 2008

Local information (v1.2)

1 Important times and addresses

Registration starts at 8.45am on Monday the 7th of July.
Registration and all lectures will take place at the following address:
Pugsley Lecture Theatre, 
Queen’s Building, 
University Walk, 
Bristol. 
BS8 1TR.

The address of the student accommodation is:
Hiatt Baker Hall, 
Parrys Lane, 
Stoke Bishop, 
Bristol. 
BS9 1AD. 
Tel: +44 (0)117 90 32990

Most attendees from outside of Bristol (i.e. anyone who didn’t request an upgrade or extra nights) have accommodation booked at Hiatt Baker Hall from the nights of Sunday the 6th to Thursday the 10th of July.
The address of the alternative hotel, for those attendees who have requested an upgrade, is Premier Travel Inn, The Haymarket, Bristol, BS1 3LR, tel: +44 (0)117 910 0600.

2 Getting to Bristol

Bristol has good transport links to the rest of the UK.

- **Rail:** Bristol has two main line stations: Bristol Temple Meads and Bristol Parkway. Bristol Temple Meads is the closest station to the university; if you arrive at Parkway station, you should change for Temple Meads. A taxi from Temple Meads station to the university or student accommodation should cost between £5 and £10.
  Alternatively, the number 8 or 9 buses go from outside the station to close to the university, and also close to the student accommodation. If travelling to Hiatt Baker Hall, you should get off at the Downs (the bus stops at the top of the hill; ask for “Bristol Zoo” or “Blackboy Hill Top”). It is a 5-10 minute walk to Hiatt Baker Hall across the Downs from these stops.

- **Air:** Bristol International airport is a short distance (20 minute drive) from the city. Shuttle buses go regularly from the airport to central Bristol, and also stop at Clifton Down shopping centre on Whiteladies Road. There are flights to Bristol from many locations in the UK and
Europe and also directly from New York. Alternatively, London Heathrow is under two hours away by direct bus or train from London or Reading.

- **Road:** The M32 motorway brings you directly into the city centre. For directions to the university, see [http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/maps/by-car.html](http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/maps/by-car.html).

### 3 Orientation and getting around

The student accommodation, Hiatt Baker Hall, is north of the university, on the other side of the Downs (a large area of parkland on top of a hill). Once the Downs have been crossed, the main road that leads down the hill is called Whiteladies Road. This road runs all the way to the university precinct. Once in the university precinct, there are maps which show the Queen’s Building (where all lectures will take place), which is building 20 on the following map.

The best ways to get from Hiatt Baker Hall to the university are getting the bus or walking. The number 41 bus goes from immediately outside Hiatt Baker Hall to the University. In the morning, there are buses that leave at 8.07am and 8.15am that should arrive in time for all the lectures. If you miss these buses, there are many more buses that travel down Whiteladies Road to the University, so you should be able to walk across the Downs and catch one of these (services 1, 8, 9, 40 or 54, for example). If getting the bus, you should get off at Queens Road, which is very near the university precinct. If the traffic isn’t too bad, it should take approximately 10 minutes for the journey.

It’s also easy to walk to the university from Hiatt Baker Hall, though it is a fairly long way (approx 2 miles – say a 45 minute walk downhill). The map on the following page illustrates one route to drive or walk between Hiatt Baker Hall and the Queen’s Building. There is limited car parking around the university.
Finally, a note on safety. Bristol is in general a very safe city. However, we do not recommend walking across the Downs late at night alone.

- **Bicycles** can be hired from Blackboy Hill Cycles, 180 Whiteladies Road (near the top of the hill, tel: 0117 973 1420) at a price of £10 per day with a £50 deposit.

- **Taxis:** Some taxi firms that operate in Bristol include:
  - Streamline Taxis (0117 926 4001)
  - City Link Taxis (0117 925 8888)
  - Bristol Taxi Co (0117 924 0011)

## 4 Summer school activities

- The majority of the school programme is the taught courses, which will take place between 9am and 5.40pm daily, with the exception of Monday, when the programme begins at 9.45am with a keynote lecture by Béla Bollobás, and Friday, when the programme ends at 12.55pm. There are coffee breaks in the morning and afternoon each day.

- There is a poster session and drinks reception on the evening of Monday the 7th, sponsored by Google. This will be held in the Merchant Venturers Building on Woodland Road after lectures, between 5.40pm and 8pm. There will be a prize for best poster (provided by Google) and a jazz band for entertainment from 7pm.
• On Wednesday afternoon, we will be providing a choice of two excursions: a river cruise along the picturesque Avon valley, or a tour of the historic SS Great Britain steamship. Availability will be limited, so you are advised to sign up for these as soon as possible.

• On Wednesday evening, we have a summer school dinner between 7.30pm and 10pm. This will be held at the Riverstation restaurant in central Bristol (address: The Grove, Bristol, BS1 4RB).

5 Internet access

We will be providing wireless Internet access for attendees in the Queen’s Building and in communal areas of Hiatt Baker Hall, via the UoB External service (http://www.wireless.bris.ac.uk/wordpress/availableservices/uobexternal/). Attendees from outside of Bristol will be given a username and password for this service on registration. Please note that attendees will not have access to the “ResNet” Ethernet network at Hiatt Baker Hall.

Wireless Internet access is also available in the Queen’s Building via the “eduroam (JRS)” service for attendees from UK universities. If you would like to use this service, you will need to sign up through your home university before you come to Bristol. Please see http://www.wireless.bris.ac.uk/wordpress/availableservices/eduroam/ for more information.

6 Eating and drinking

6.1 Breakfast

For those staying in Hiatt Baker Hall, breakfast is provided. If you prefer to make your own arrangements, there are a number of cafés and supermarkets on Whiteladies Road on the way to the university where you can buy food.

6.2 Lunch

A buffet lunch will be provided as part of the summer school programme between Monday and Thursday. Lunch is not provided on Friday, as the summer school ends before lunchtime. On Wednesday, you will be given a packed lunch. There are several excellent sandwich shops and cafés on Queens Road, very near the university, if you would like to make your own arrangements for lunch.

6.3 Dinner

Bristol has a good selection of restaurants, ranging from cheap and cheerful to gourmet. In the area around the university, there is a high concentration of places to eat on Whiteladies Road and Park Street (the main roads heading up and down the hill from the university, respectively). We particularly recommend:

• **Zero Degrees**, 53 Colston St, 0117 925 2706. Pizzeria and microbrewery 5-10 minutes walk from the Queens Building. Serves excellent and fairly cheap pizza with a range of interesting toppings.

• **Yum Yum Thai**, 50 Park St, 0117 929 0987. Good and fairly cheap Thai food on Park St.
• **Kathmandu**, Colston St, 0117 929 4455. Nepalese restaurant serving good Nepalese and Indian food (curries etc.). Fairly pricey but out of the ordinary.

• **Colston Yard**, Colston St, 0117 376 3232. Upmarket pub owned by local brewery. Traditional food and a great selection of English and continental beers. Medium to expensive.

• **Asia in Wok**, 52 Park Row, 0117 929 9954. Asian fusion cuisine in a trendy environment. Slightly pricey.

• **Wagamama**, 63 Queens Rd, 0117 922 1188. As above, but more cheap and cheerful. Popular with students.

• **The Hill**, 33 Cotham Hill, 0117 973 3793. Trendy pub just off Whiteladies Road serving good pizza. 2-for-1 deals before 7pm on weekdays.

• **Pizza Provencale**, 29 Regent St, 0117 974 1175. Pizzeria in Clifton selling huge, traditional pizzas for a good price.

### 6.4 After dinner

Again, there are many places to drink and chat along Whiteladies Road and Park St, ranging from trendy bars to traditional pubs. There are also 5 or 6 pubs on St. Michael’s Hill, the nicest of which is the Highbury Vaults, at the top of the hill. Most of these pubs also serve food.

### 7 Further information and contact details

The following websites have more information about the university and Bristol in general.

- Bristol University maps and guides: [http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/maps/](http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/maps/)
- Hiatt Baker Hall: [http://www.bristol.ac.uk/hiattbaker/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/hiattbaker/)
- Bristol tourist information: [http://visitbristol.co.uk/](http://visitbristol.co.uk/)

Further information about the summer school will be posted on our Google Group: [http://groups.google.com/group/probtcs08](http://groups.google.com/group/probtcs08). This is also a good way of staying in contact with summer school attendees after the event.

All queries regarding the summer school should be addressed in the first instance to Kerrie Walker ([kerrie.walker@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:kerrie.walker@bristol.ac.uk)).