

Saunas and Sea Ice: Studying in Suomi and Sussex

Daniel Cutting

The City of Brighton

- Seaside city on the coast just south of London.
- Unofficial LGBTQ+ capital of the UK.
- Named most hipster city in the world in Movehub study.
- Thriving tourist industry with 11 million visitors in 2016.
- Home to the only Green party Member of Parliament.



Photograph: Tristan Fewings/Getty Images

Sussex University

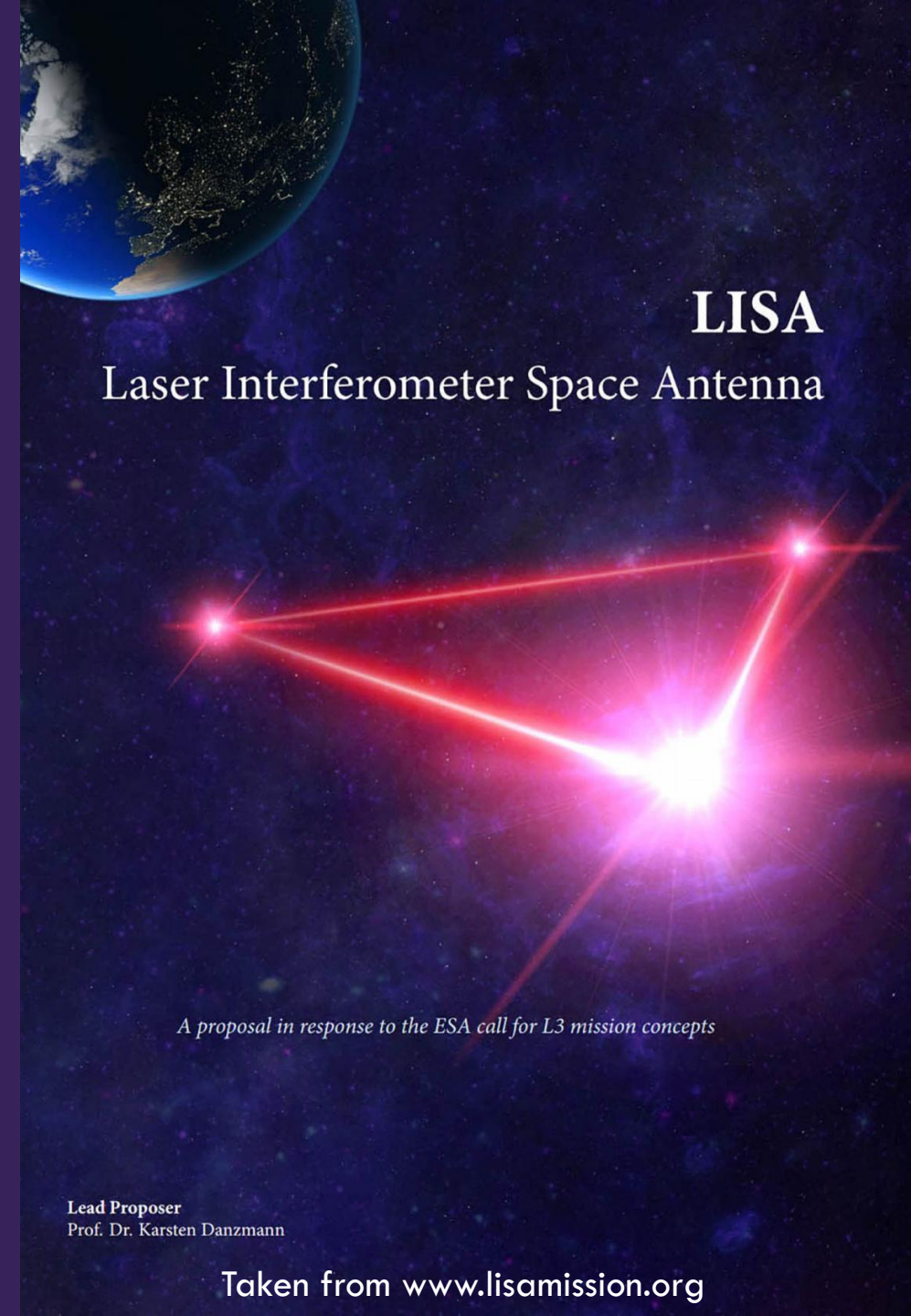
- On the outskirts of Brighton.
- 17,000 students enrolled in 2016-2017.
- 1000 of which were in the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences.
- Research groups in astrophysics, cosmology, experimental particle physics, quantum technologies/ optics, material physics, theoretical particle physics...



Taken from www.architectsjournal.co.uk

Gravitational Waves and LTA's

- PhD topic:
Gravitational waves from a first-order phase transition in the early Universe.
- Lots of important work in the field from researchers at HIP!
- Long Term Attachments:
 - Funded by Research Councils in UK.
 - Study at another institute/university.
 - Originally designed for experimental particle physicists to visit experiments.



LISA
Laser Interferometer Space Antenna

A proposal in response to the ESA call for L3 mission concepts

Lead Proposer
Prof. Dr. Karsten Danzmann

Taken from www.lisamission.org

Qualifying and Courses

- Typical route in UK
 - 4 year undergraduate masters (MPhys/MSci) into PhD.
- Study additional 2-3 modules (15-22.5 ECTS) during PhD.
- Modules seem less flexible/specialized compared to Helsinki.

Financing PhDs: Students or Employees?

- In UK most home students funded by Research Councils such as STFC, EPSRC...
- Students funded by Research Councils typically get stipend around €16,000.
 - Stipend is a grant so tax-free!
- UK students aren't employees:
 - Tuition fees (normally waived for funded PhDs).
 - No pension scheme.
 - No employee benefits.
- PhD students in UK get full student benefits:
 - Don't have to pay "council tax".
 - Discount on transport etc.

PhD defense

- No 3 paper rule in UK.
- Vivas in the UK:
 - Private defense – behind closed doors.
 - Can last many hours.
 - Minor or even major corrections to the thesis common.
 - Failure uncommon but can happen!
- No equivalent of Karonkka!

Athena Swan

- Established in 2005 to promote gender equality in STEMM employment in higher education and research.
- Based in UK + Republic of Ireland with 159 members.
- Charter of 10 principles - <https://tinyurl.com/ASCharter>
- Three levels of award:
 - Bronze – analyse data to identify gender gaps/leaks, create an action plan for three years.
 - Silver – evidence of impact/achievement based on action plan. Ambitious plans for further actions/achievement.
 - Gold – evidence of considerable action and impact. Support to other institutions to further principles of Athena Swan.
- Sussex holds silver award.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

