

Dr Shamil Shaikhutdinov from the Department of Chemical Physics, Fritz-Haber-Institute, Berlin visited UCL and Oxford University 13-16 June. At UCL he visited the Thornton and Shluger groups in the London Centre for Nanotechnology and Physics and Chemistry Departments. At Oxford, Dr Shaikhutdinov visited Dr Castell's group in the Department of Materials . The discussions led to plans for future EU applications, for instance in the area of magnetite surface interactions.

Dr Shaikhutdinov gave a seminar at the two institutions entitled 'Structure and properties of thin silica films grown on a metal substrate' The abstract for this talk is as follows:

*In attempts to understand the reactivity of oxide and metal/oxide surfaces, we develop model systems where metal or oxide particles are deposited on well-defined oxide films. In particular, we have recently determined the atomic structure of thin silica films grown on Mo(112). Depending on the preparation conditions, different structures have been observed using STM, IRAS and XPS corroborated with DFT calculations. Water adsorption and structure of Pd deposited on these films will be discussed.*