

## Taking electives in a different department.

Occasionally students ask to take an elective in their third or fourth year from a different department. We call these modules “non-standard electives”. This document will provide some guidelines on what is and what isn’t allowed.

What is a non-standard elective?

- A module provided by a department other than Physics at Imperial College London, this includes BPES and Horizons modules taken in Year 3 or Year 4, or
- The Entrepreneurship for Physicists module (EfP) offered by the Physics Department.

For BPES, Horizons and EfP, you can select these in May/June along with their other electives. These can be processed by Derryck Stewart and Victor Urubusi. For other non-standard options, say in Maths or Computing, the best time to organise these is in September as other departments are unlikely to want to commit to such arrangements until their own students have made their choices. Before then you should select a Physics elective module on the app. This back-up elective can be dropped from your degree modules should you obtain agreement to take a non-standard elective. However, you will be expected to keep on top of the content for your proposed back-up Physics elective during the academic year so that you can take this module if required. Any back-up module selected must be one that is fully assessed via an examination in Term 3 of the academic year.

- The non-standard elective must still meet the requirements of your degree programme (e.g. ECTS values, FHEQ levels).
- You can only take a non-standard elective in Years 3 or 4.
- The non-standard elective must be at FHEQ Level 6 or 7.
- Postgraduate modules (e.g. Black Holes or Differential Geometry) are not allowed as electives for 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate students.
- You normally need 60% or above with your weighted average mark to take a non-standard elective.
- You can only have a single non-standard elective in any single year of academic study (up to a maximum size of 7.5 ECTS for most programmes).
- Normally a maximum of 15 ECTS in total of any student’s degree can be made up non-standard for most degree programmes. There is slightly more flexibility for F309 students.
- The Maths modules *MATH60026/MATH70026 Methods for Data Science* are not available to Physics students.
- The Maths module *MATH70134 Mathematical Foundations of Machine Learning* is not available to Physics students.
- The Computing module *COMP70021 Quantum Computing* is not available to Physics students.
- Information on available Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering modules can be found on their [website](#) – look for “Students from other departments”.

Procedure:

- If you wish to take a non-standard module, finding out some key bits of information will help us consider your request:
  - What FHEQ Level is the module?
  - How many ECTS is it worth?

- Have you asked permission from the host department if you can take the course?
- Do they have space on the course to accept students from other departments?
- Does it clash in the timetable with a physics course you are taking?
- You should obtain the module specification.
- Once you have this information, you will need to ask for a meeting with the Head of Years 3 and 4 (Yvonne Unruh) to discuss how taking the non-standard elective fits into your future career or research plans. It is up to you to make a case for Yvonne to support. We also need to ensure the content does not overlap substantially with any of your other modules. **Do not assume that you can take a non-standard elective until you have written approval from the Head of Year.**
- We will ask you to complete and sign a form (see page 3) to confirm you understand the risks involved in taking a non-standard elective.
- Once we have your signed form, the Head of Year will provide written approval that you can take the module, you should contact Victor Urubusi to inform him of the non-standard elective and which module is being dropped.
- Normally when a student hands in coursework, they are committing themselves to the course. This rule will also apply to non-standard electives.
- If the exam for a non-standard module clashes with a Physics exam, we will not move the Physics exam or hold a special sitting of an exam for you. You will be expected to take a Physics back-up module instead of taking the non-standard elective. Departments do not coordinate the making of their exam timetables, but we will contact other departments in January 2025 to find out if they have released their exam timetable.

### **Alternative Exam Arrangements**

If you are taking a module outside physics and you have been provided AEAs, please contact Mery Fajardo and the examination team in the respective department.

Unfortunately, if you do not notify us with this information well in advance the department will not be able to confirm your AEAs.

### Non-standard Electives Form

The College's academic regulations state that "students are responsible for ensuring they have registered for the correct modules each year." It is therefore essential that you obtain correct information about any non-standard elective you wish to take.

To assist both staff and students in making sure that all information is at hand and that students understand the risks involved in taking a non-standard elective, we require students to complete this form.

<b>Host department module code</b>	
<b>Host department module title</b>	
<b>Host department module FHEQ level</b>	
<b>Host department module ECTS value</b>	
<b>Link to host department module specification</b>	
<b>Has the host department confirmed the place in writing? (Attach the confirmation with this form.)</b>	
<b>Code and title of back-up Physics module</b>	
<b>Code &amp; title of module to be dropped.</b>	

The Physics department will not be able to approve a non-standard module unless we have this information provided. It is the student's responsibility to provide this information.

The Head of Year will check that the non-standard module content doesn't overlap with modules already taken or are due to be taken. The Head of Year will confirm whether the non-standard module can be taken in writing by email.

Student declaration:

- I confirm that the above information about the module from the host department is correct. I understand that incorrect information about ECTS and FHEQ values could affect my progression or graduation.
- I confirm that I will keep on top of the content for my proposed back-up Physics elective during the academic year so that I can take this module if required.
- I confirm that should the non-standard elective exam clash with a Physics module also being taken that year, I will drop the non-standard elective and take my back-up Physics elective.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

Please return to this form to [ph.options@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ph.options@imperial.ac.uk) and [ph.hoy3-4@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ph.hoy3-4@imperial.ac.uk)