

# IMPERIAL

## Physics Department Master's elective selection – the 'Elective App'

If you are a master's student on one of the following courses, you must make choices as to which electives you will study:

1. MSc Physics, MSc Physics with Extended Research and MSc Physics with Quantum Dynamics
2. MSc Quantum Fields and Fundamental Forces (QFFF)
3. MSc Optics and Photonics (OPP) and MRes Photonics
4. MRes Machine Learning and Big Data (MLBD) in the Physical Sciences

These elective choices will be made using the 'Elective App', accessed → [here](#). ←

[ Students on the MSc Security and Resilience (SRST) have elective choices, but this is handled within your course. You will be given instructions by your course directors and administrators. Students on the MRes Soft Electronic Materials (SEM) do not have elective options. ]

The choice of electives is important in that it determines both which modules you will eventually be assessed in, and hence which will make up your degree, but also which module you will have full access to on Blackboard (our VLE = Virtual Learning Environment) and Panopto (lecture recordings) so that you may properly follow the courses.

Some modules have an element of continuous assessment that must be completed during the time that the module runs. It is important that if you are taking such modules you must be registered for them (via the App) before the assessment begins.

At the end of your degree, you must have between 90 or 92.5 ECTS (inclusive) of module credit to graduate (for Physics with Extended Research this is 120 or 122.5).<sup>1</sup> You cannot have less than this, and importantly, you cannot have more than this. Therefore, you need to think carefully about the electives you choose.

Since most of you will be coming from other institutions, it is natural that you may not have a clear picture of what modules you wish to take when you begin your course. Hence, we have flexibility so that you don't have to make a binding decision until the end of term 2 for most of the courses – some require an earlier decision. However, it is important you do have a clear picture from early on of which you are *likely* to take, so that you can attend those modules, and ensure you have full VLE/Panopto access to those courses. Thus, the process of elective selection is in two steps; you will be asked to make a *provisional* choice early in term 1, and then fix a *final* choice at the end of term 2 (and for some courses earlier than this).

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<sup>1</sup> In addition, you can only take a maximum of 15 ECTS from level 6 courses.

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## Timeline

The timeline for *provisional* selection and *final* selection of electives is the following:

Week 1, term 1	Beginning of the year	You will be given auditor access (limited functionality) for Blackboard and Panopto for all the physics modules that are available as electives in your course.  The Elective App will become live, and you will be able to enter your provisional elective selection.
End of week 3, term 1	Provisional choice of electives	The provisional choices you have made using the Elective App will be recorded.  You will be given full access to Blackboard/Panopto for those modules rather than auditor status.
Remainder of term 1 and term 2	Modification of elective choices possible	If necessary, you will be able to modify your choices of electives in the App.  For UG modules this is possible only until week 5 of term 2.
End of week 5, term 2	Final choice for electives that are UG modules	You must finalize your choices of electives which are UG modules in the App by the end of week 5, term 2. This will then determine the UG modules you will be examined in during term 3.
End of term 2	Final choice for all physics electives	You must finalize your elective choices in the App by this point. This choice will then determine the examinations you will take in term 3.

## Elective App

The App allows you to enter the elective modules you are expecting to take for your degree and to check the total ECTS that they give. Remember that this must add to between 90 and 92.5 ECTS inclusive (except for Extended Research). It is recommended that you aim for 90 ECTS. While it is possible to take up to 92.5 ECTS, you must be aware that this will entail extra workload, and it is not recommended unless you feel that your elective choices compel that option. The App also details potential elective module timetable clashes. For up-to-date timetables please see the following links; [UG timetables](#), [PG timetables](#).

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There is a 'notes' text box during the elective selection. If there are other electives you are seriously considering taking, please enter these into this box (including the module codes e.g. PHYS70???) up to a **maximum** of 3 courses. If necessary, the PGT admin team will then give you full student access to these courses too; but you will not be registered for examination in them. If you subsequently decide you wish to switch to one of these, you must make that change in the elective app.

Your provisional choice of electives will be made at the end of week 3 in the first term. After that point you may log back in to the App. You will then see your previous choices, and you can then amend these. Your choices in the App at the end of term 2 will be taken to be your final selection of electives. However you must finalize your choice of physics UG electives a little earlier, by the end of week 5 in term 2.

A couple more details while using the App:

1. All modules available on your course within the physics department will show, and some in other departments will be seen. If there are modules you wish to take in other departments that are not shown, they should be entered in the notes text box (including their module code e.g. MATH70???). If you are interested in taking a module from another department it is important that you discuss this with your course director; you should also look at the course timetabling as there may be clashes with your physics modules. You will need written permission from the course director responsible for the course in the other department, and from your course director, and these should be forwarded to [ph-pgt@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ph-pgt@imperial.ac.uk)
2. The level 6 'Computational Physics' course has a limit on the number of students. You may not be able to select it if it is over-subscribed. If you do select it by the end of week 3, you must then go on to take the course and cannot switch this module.

If you are in doubt about elective selection, please discuss it with your course director and/or the PGT admin team. You will be given further instruction specific to your course in your programme's induction lecture.

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30<sup>th</sup> September 2024