Imperial College London

Module Specification (Curriculum Review)

Basic details

			Earliest cohort	Latest cohort
UID		Cohorts covered	2024-25	
Long title	Self-study project			
New code	PHYS70053	New short title		

Brief description of module *(approx. 600 chars.)*

This module lets students develop their ability to distil information from the scientific literature using methods appropriate to the chosen topic. They will develop their skills for analysing and critiquing the literature. They will produce a report outlining the background to the chosen topic and the key steps in its development from conception through to the current state-of-the-art. Typically the topic chosen will be a research area or technique. They will present their research in a short talk.

504 characters

Available as a standalone module/ short course? N

Statutory details

	ECTS	CATS	Non-credit		
Credit value	7.5	15	N	HECOS codes	
FHEQ level	Level 7				

Allocation of study hours

	Hours	
Lectures	0	
Group teaching	0	*Incl. seminars, tutorials, problem classes.*
Lab/ practical		
Other scheduled	10	*Incl. project supervision, fieldwork, external visits.*
Independent study	177.5	*Incl. wider reading/ practice, follow-up work, completion of assessments, revisions.*
Placement		*Incl. work-based learning and study that occurs overseas.*
Total hours	187.5	
ECTS ratio	25.00	

Project/placement activity

Is placement activity allowed? No

Module delivery

Delivery mode	Taught/ Campus	Other	
Delivery term		Other	Term 1 or Term 2

Ownership

Primary department	Physics
Additional teaching departments	
Delivery campus	South Kensington

Collaborative delivery

Collaborative delivery?	N

External institution	N/A
External department	N/A
External campus	N/A

Associated staff

Role	CID	Given name	Surname
Module Leader		Ben	Sauer

Learning and teaching

Module description

Learning outcomes	On successful completion of the module the students will have be able to: - identify the appropriate tools to search the scientific literature to extract information on a particular topic - critically review material extracted from the scientific literature and explain the development of the topic to the current state-of-the-art - communicate their work in both written and oral form
Module content	An independent literature or technical review of a research topic in physics.
Learning and Teaching Approach	The students will work individually on a literature review with a high degree of independence. Topic choice is through discussion between the student and self-study supervisor. Work on this module is either in term 1 or term 2, depending on elective choices. This allows students to balance their workload across two terms. Students on the Quantum Dynamics stream will take this module in term 2. Students are expected to work over a period of eight weeks during which they have regular meetings with the supervisor, giving students an opportunity to discuss progress and future plans.
Assessment Strategy	The module is assessed by a written report that contributes 80% of the total mark. The students also give a 15-minute oral presentation followed by Q&A to members of the MSc class plus the project supervisor and other academic staff, which has a weight of 20%.
Feedback	Informal feedback will be provided to the student by their supervisor(s) continually through the duration of the work. The oral presentation takes place several weeks before the due date of the report. This provides a natural point for feedback regarding their plans for the written report. Students will receive feedback from the supervisor on the structure of their written report and on any specific areas that they wish to consult their supervisor on.
Reading list	A set of initial reading appropriate to the particular project will be provided by the supervisor.

Quality assurance

Date of first approval	
Date of last revision	
Date of this approval	
Module leader	Ben Sauer

Office use only

QA Lead	
Department staff	
Date of collection	
Date exported	
Date imported	

Notes/ comments	

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