Imperial College London

Module Specification (Curriculum Review)

Basic details

UID		Cohorts covered	Earliest cohort: 2024-25; Latest cohort:
Long title	MSc Research Project		
New code	PHYS70054	New short title	
Brief description of module *(approx. 600 chars.)*	A four-month research project on a state-of-the-art problem in physics. The project will encompass either a laboratory-based practical project, computational project or theoretical project, either within one of our research groups or with an external partner and under the guidance of research-active staff. Students will be able to choose from a range of projects based on their interests and the background they have developed through their prior studies on the MSc.		

468 characters

Available as a standalone module/ short course? N

Statutory details

	ECTS	CATS	Non-credit		
Credit value	30	60	N	HECOS codes	
FHEQ level	Level 7				

Allocation of study hours

	Hours	
Lectures	0	
Group teaching	0	*Incl. seminars, tutorials, problem classes.*
Lab/ practical	390	
Other scheduled	10	*Incl. project supervision, fieldwork, external visits.*
Independent study	350	*Incl. wider reading/ practice, follow-up work, completion of assessments, revisions.*
Placement	0	*Incl. work-based learning and study that occurs overseas.*
Total hours	750	
ECTS ratio	25.00	

Project/placement activity

Is placement activity allowed? Yes

Module delivery

Delivery mode	Taught/ Campus	Other	
Delivery term		Other	May to September (four months)

Ownership

Primary department	Physics
Additional teaching departments	Projects in other departments or with external institutions/companies are possible.
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 MSc Research Project students will be able to: - design a research plan for addressing a research problem - critically assess techiniques appropriate to meeting the aims of a research project - summarize and assess background iterature relavent to the project - undertake laboratory/computational/theoretical research (as appropriate) at the state-of-the-art - evaluate the performance of different methods and their suitability for addressing a research problem - communicate effectively using a range of media (in writing, poster presentation, orally) to a range of audiences
Module content	A research project in an area of physics.
Learning and Teaching Approach	The students will work individually or in pairs on a research-led project with a high degree of independence. Initial project choice is decided through discussion between the student(s) and project supervisor. Project work begins once students have completed their last examinations and runs for 4 months (May to September). During this period students have regular meetings with the project supervisor giving students an opportunity to discuss progress and future plans.
Assessment Strategy	Although students can work as a member of a pair, assessments will be individual. The module is assessed by a written thesis (dissertation) that contributes 50% of the total mark for the module. The disseration is marked by both the supervisor and an independent assessor (with equal weighting). If there is a discrepancy between the two markers that is greater than that permitted by College regulations, the markers will be asked to confer and agree a mark. If the markers are unable to agree a mark, then the Programme Director (or their nominee) will act as the independent adjudicating assessor to determine the final mark. Continuous assessment (of student effort, effectiveness, scientific understanding and effective use of skills appropriate to the project) by the supervisor at the end of the project contributes 20% to the total for the module. Students start their projects by preparing a short project plan which includes an overview of the relevant literature. This is assessed by the supervisor and contributes 15% of the overall mark of the module. Towards the end of the project students present their progress orally as a poster presentation with Q&A to the whole MSc class. The project supervisor and other academic staff present provide independent marks that are equally weighted and which contributes 15% to the overall mark for the module.
Feedback	Informal feedback will be provided to the students from their project supervisor(s) continually through the duration of the project. Formative feedback is also provided on the progress, the poster presentation and the initial project plan.
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
Notes/ comments	

Office use only

QA Lead	
Department staff	
Date of collection	
Date exported	
Date imported	

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