Imperial College London

Module Specification (Curriculum Review)

Basic details

			Earliest cohort	Latest cohort
UID		Cohorts covered	2024-25	
Long title	MSc Extended Research Project			
New code	PHYS70055	New short title		
Brief description of module *(approx. 600 chars.)*	A nine-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.			
	469 characters			
Available as a standalone module/ short course?	N			

Statutory details

	ECTS	CATS	Non-credit		
Credit value	45	90	N	HECOS codes	
FHEQ level	Level 7				

Allocation of study hours

	Hours	
Lectures	0	
Group teaching	0	*Incl. seminars, tutorials, problem classes.*
Lab/ practical	600	
Other scheduled	25	*Incl. project supervision, fieldwork, external visits.*
Independent study	500	*Incl. wider reading/ practice, follow-up work, completion of assessments, revisions.*
Placement	0	*Incl. work-based learning and study that occurs overseas.*
Total hours	1125	
ECTS ratio	25.00	

Project/placement activity

Is placement activity allowed?	Yes

Module delivery

Delivery mode	Taught/ Campus	Other	
Delivery term	Year-long	Other	October to June (9 months) in year 2

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 Extended Research Project students will be able to: - carry out laboratory/computational/theoretical work (as appropriate to the topic of the project) at the state-of-the-art - critically evaluate the performance of different methods and their suitability for the problem studied - critically select and apply state-of-the-art technical tools appropriate to their project - communicate their work in both writing and orally - discuss the context, results and conclusions of their work in an oral examination
Module content	A research project in an area of physics.
Learning and Teaching Approach	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. The project runs for nine months (October to June) in the second year of the MSc Physics with Extended Research programme. 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. The supervisor and assessor also conduct an oral examination based on the final dissertation and provide a joint, agreed mark that contributes 20% to the total for the module. 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 spring term contributes 15% to the total for the module. Towards the end of term 1, students present their progress orally (either as a poster presentation or a seminar-style talk, depending on student numbers on the programme) with Q&A to the whole MSc class. The project superivor and other academic staff present provide independent marks that are equally weighted and which
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 via the formal continuous assessment by the supervisor and on the oral presentation. Written summative feedback will be provided after the oral examination.
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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