

School of Physics

Guidelines for MSc Research Component

Handbook entry

1. Preliminary literature survey and research plan (10 page limit of mixed text, diagrams, and mathematical formulas) due at the end of year one or after the student has enrolled in 25 pts of Research Project (pass/fail).
2. Oral presentation lasting up to 20 min, due at the end of year one or after the student has enrolled in 25 pts of Research Project (pass/fail).
3. Successful completion of an advanced seminar in the relevant research area (pass/fail).
4. Oral presentation lasting up to 30 min, given at the end of the second year of the MSc (10% of final grade).
5. Major thesis (50 pages of mixed text, diagrams, and mathematical formulas) due at the end of year two (90% of the final grade).

Assessment components (total 100)

1.1 Literature survey	Pass/Fail
1.2 Initial oral presentation	Pass/Fail
1.3 Advanced seminar	Pass/Fail
1.4 Final oral presentation	10
1.5 Thesis	90

1. Literature survey

The initial report is intended to show that the student has a solid foundation for the research project, that the student has reviewed the literature and appreciates the motivation and context for the research.

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| 1.1 Submission date and time | Due at the time of initial oral presentation. |
| 1.2 Format | Up to 10 pages A4 (font/spacing/margins as for thesis, see below). |
| 1.3 Assessment | Pass/Fail, assessed by the supervisor, or another member of the relevant research group. |

2. Initial Oral Presentation

Up to 20 min, open to all interested, to be examined by Teaching & Research staff of the relevant research group. Heads of research groups must ensure the talk takes place by a deadline specified by the MSc Coordinator. (No later than middle of 3rd semester for students enrolled on a full time basis.)

3. Advanced seminar

Assessed pass/fail by lecturer(s) responsible for advanced seminar in relevant area. Will typically require completion of homework problems and/or project work.

4. Final Oral Presentation

15 min. plus 5 min. questions, open to all interested, to be examined by a panel of Teaching & Research staff as appointed by the MSc Coordinator or the Head of School.

5. Thesis

5.1 Submission date and time

23 October 2015, 5 pm

5.2 Format

5.2.1 Length	50 page limit, A4
5.2.2 Font	12 pt, single line spacing
5.2.3 Margins	At least 20 mm all sides
5.2.4 Electronic archive	To be submitted as PDF plus 4 hard copies

5.3 50 page limit is inclusive of:

5.3.1 Title page with title, student name, supervisor, date of submission

5.3.2 Abstract (one page max)

5.3.3 Statement of contribution and originality

5.3.4 Introduction describing context and literature review

5.3.5 Bibliography

5.3.5 Appendices and any other additional material

5.4 Statement of Contribution and Originality

A statement at the beginning of the thesis shall state the student's initiative and explicit contributions to the material presented in the report. For example, 'Statement of Contributions: Chapter 2 is an original review and all experimental work in Chapters 3-6 is the author's own unless otherwise stated.'

5.5 Thesis Examination Panel

Each student will have a three-person examination panel, including the primary supervisor, an in-field examiner (usually someone within the same research group) and an out-of-field examiner. Examiners will usually be members of the Teaching & Research staff within the School of Physics. Students will not be advised who their in-field and out-of-field examiners are to be.

5.6 Assessment (total 90)

5.5.1 Supervisor	50
5.5.2 In-field-examiner	20
5.5.3 Out-of-field examiner	20