

## Department of Physics

# Guidelines for MSc (Physics) Project Course PC5286 From AY 2023 onwards

### Objectives of Project Course

This project course offers an opportunity to our M.Sc. (by coursework) students who are interested in carrying out a substantial and relatively independent research project under the supervision of a supervisor. It also allow students who plan to pursue a Ph.D degree or a research career gain necessary research experience.

### Project Course Description

PC5286: A project course in the M.Sc. by coursework in Physics. It carries **8 units** which is equivalent to **two regular NUS courses**.

**Duration:** To complete the project course within a **minimum of 2 semesters**. Interested students must register for the project course at the beginning of the semester during the online course registration and complete the project course by the end of the next semester.

### Getting Started

#### 1. Submission of Project Application

The student is required to consult and discuss with the potential supervisor and/or co-supervisor on the proposed project and apply to take on the project. The application is to be approved by the Department's Graduate Chair.

Once approved, the Department Admin will help to register the student in the online system. You may email to [yeozh@nus.edu.sg](mailto:yeozh@nus.edu.sg) to request for the application form (in soft copy).

Student may approach external staff to supervise their project. **However, the student must ensure that the other supervisor is our NUS Physics Academic staff.**

#### 2. Submission of Interim Progress Report

At the end of week 12 of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, student is to submit an interim progress report (in soft copy) on the project course to Department. The report (*no more than two A4-size pages*) should contain the following:

- A brief summary of the project objective and scope
- The project work done during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester
- Future project work to be done in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

The report will be sent to the project supervisor for grading.

If student progress is graded marginal/unsatisfactory, the supervisor may recommend the discontinuation of the project course. If so, student is required to drop the project course and register for other courses to substitute the project course in the subsequent new semester.

#### 3. Mid-Term Oral Presentation

In addition to the submission of an interim progress report, student is also required to give a mid-term oral presentation. The presentation should be held by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester or in first two weeks of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. The duration of the mid-term presentation is 20 minutes excluding Questions and Answers.

The project supervisor is to provide one internal examiner and arrange for the mid-term oral presentation. The proposed internal examiner will also take part in the student's final oral presentation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

The assessment panel for the mid-term oral presentation and the final oral presentation consists the project supervisor(s) and one internal examiner. The proposed internal examiner must be our **Physics Academic Staff**.

Project Supervisor(s) is to ensure that the proposed examiner has no direct involvement in the student's research or close connections with either the candidate or project supervisor which might inhibit a completely objective examination.

The assessment panel is to grade the performance of the student's mid-term oral presentation.

If the performance of the student is found poor/unsatisfactory, the assessment panel may recommend the discontinuation of the project course. If so, student is required to drop the project course and register for other courses to substitute the project course in the subsequent new semester.

#### 4. Format for Final Project Dissertation

The project dissertation should consist a **minimum of 60 pages (up to 80 pages)** including text and figures. Other extended data sheets and programs can be placed under Appendix.

General Formatting:

- **Title Page:** The title page should indicate i) M.Sc. Coursework Project Title, ii) Student Name & Student ID and iii) Project Supervisor(s) Name
- **Page Size:** A4 size page (8.27" x 11.69") paper with white background and black colour font for the text
- **Margins:** The left and right margins should be 1½ inches. The top & bottom margins should not be less than 1 inch each
- **Font:** The font size for the main text should be 11 to 12. The same font type and size should be used for the entire dissertation
- **Line Spacing:** The text should be in double-spacing
- **Page Numbering:** All pages except the title page must be paginated. The page numbers should appear at the bottom center of the page

#### 5. Submission of Final Project Course Dissertation

Student is to email the final project course dissertation (in soft copy, PDF format) to [yeozh@nus.edu.sg](mailto:yeozh@nus.edu.sg) by the end of week 12 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester.

The dissertation will be forwarded to the assessment panel for assessment.

#### 6. Extension of Project Duration

Student must inform Department **at the end of week 12** or **earlier** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester if the project course cannot be completed by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester. Student will have to seek the project supervisor's support to extend the project, followed by an endorsement by the Graduate Chair.

The appeal should include a detailed work plan with timeline for completion of the remaining project work during the period of extension requested until the submission of the final project course dissertation by the end of week 12 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester.

There is no application form for such extension requests. Student is required to write to department (Attention to Graduate Chair) to make a case.

#### 7. Assessment of Final Project Course Dissertation

There are two components for the final assessment. They are

- i) Evaluation of Project Dissertation (50%)
- ii) Evaluation of Oral Presentation & Viva (50%)

In week 13, the final project course dissertation will be forwarded to the assessment panel for assessment. The Oral Presentation & Viva will be arranged in the reading week. Each component should take about 30 minutes.

**8. Grading for the Project Course**

The assessment panel is required to submit the evaluation forms to the department general office immediately after the oral presentation. Department Admin will compile the total marks.

## Summary of Project Course PC5286 Schedule

PC5286		Action by			
Proposed Dates	Description	Student	Project Supervisor	Examiner	Dept Office
<b>Project Course in the First Semester</b>					
Orientation Week or Week 1	Student to consult and discuss with potential supervisor and submit course application for approval. Start the project course.	√	√		√
At the end of Week 12	Submission of Interim Progress Report to the Dept Office. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The interim progress report, no more than two A4-size pages, should contain a brief summary of the objective and scope of the project as well as the project work done during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. Future project work to be done in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester must also be briefly stated.</i></li> </ul>	√			√
In Week 13 & Reading Week	Interim Progress Report to be examined by the project supervisor(s).		√		√
<b>Mid-Term Oral Presentation</b>					
By the end of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sem  <b>Or</b>  By Week 2 of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sem	Student is required to present a mid-term oral presentation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Project Supervisor to arrange for the mid-term oral presentation.</i></li> <li><i>The assessment panel consists the supervisor and one internal examiner. Project Supervisor is to submit the details of the proposed internal examiner to the Department Office.</i></li> <li><i>The assessment panel is to grade the performance of the mid-term oral presentation.</i></li> </ul>	√	√	√	√
<b>Project Course in the Second Semester</b>					
At end of Week 12**	Submission of Final Project Course dissertation to the Dept Office	√			√
In Week 13	Final Project Course dissertation to be assessed by the project supervisor(s) and examiner		√	√	
Reading week <i>(Date &amp; Time to be confirmed)</i>	Final Oral Presentation	√	√	√	
By end of examination weeks	To finalize the marks and key into IMMS system				√

Note:

**\*\*Student must inform the Department Office at the end of week 12 of Second Semester or earlier if the project course will not be completed by the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Refer to paragraph 6 for details.**