

SCHOOL OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
Faculty of Science and Engineering

**MSc PHYSICS and MSc ASTRONOMY &
ASTROPHYSICS
PROGRAMME HANDBOOK**

2017-18

Disclaimer: The information contained in this handbook is correct at the time of your receiving it but the University, while retaining proper regard for the interests of students who have begun their programmes, reserves the right to alter the programmes or the timetable if the need arises.

Revision: August 2017

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Counselling Service	Website http://www.counsellingservice.manchester.ac.uk/		52864
Disability Advisory and Support Service (DASS)	Website http://www.dass.manchester.ac.uk/ Email dass@manchester.ac.uk		57512
Occupational Health	Website http://www.occhealth.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduates/ Email millocchealth@manchester.ac.uk		65806
Student Immigration Team	Website http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/international/why-manchester/student-support/immigration/ Email visa@manchester.ac.uk		55000
Student Services	Website http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/crucial-guide/ Email ssc@manchester.ac.uk		55000
Student Support	Website http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/experience/student-life/university/student-support/ Email studentsupport@manchester.ac.uk		53033/ 3781
Student Union	Website https://manchesterstudentsunion.com/ Email info.su@manchester.ac.uk		52930

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING GRADUATE EDUCATION OFFICE		
Team who deal with your Dissertation/Thesis submission	Take your 2 copies to Address: Room C4 Sackville Street Building Sackville Street	Email contact for the team EPSGRADED@manchester.ac.uk

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Nuclear Physics			
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Particle Physics			
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Particle Accelerator Physics			
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Photon Physics			
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Research Grp Admin	Jonathan Rodd	jonathan.rodd@manchester.ac.uk	54070
Theoretical Physics			
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Theoretical Nuclear Physics			
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Research Grp Admin	Catherine Duffy	catherine.duffy@manchester.ac.uk	54170
Theoretical Particle Physics			
Research Grp Co-Ordinator	Prof Fedor Bezrukov	fedor.bezrukov@manchester.ac.uk	
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Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Essential Information**
- 3. Calendar**
- 4. Course Aims and Objectives**
- 5. Your role as a Student**
 - 5.1 The University Code
 - 5.2 Supervisory Team
 - 5.3 Attendance
 - 5.4 Wellbeing, Health and Changes in Circumstances
 - 5.5 Communication
- 6. Contacts and People**
 - 6.1 Management of the Programme
 - 6.2 Programme Directors
 - 6.2.1 MSc by Research in Astronomy Programme Director
 - 6.2.2 MSc by Research in Physics Programme Director
 - 6.3 Your research Group
 - 6.4 Supervisors and Co-Supervisors
 - 6.5 Advisors
 - 6.6 Taught Course Unit Tutors
 - 6.7 PGR Representatives
 - 6.8 Research Group Administrators
 - 6.9 PGR Administration Team
 - 6.10 Health and Safety Officer
 - 6.11 Student Experience Officer
 - 6.12 Student Support Officer
 - 6.13 Student Services Centre
 - 6.14 Student Support Centre
 - 6.15 Students Union and Advice Service
- 7. Registration**
 - 7.1 New Students
 - 7.2 Returning Students
- 8. Finance**
 - 8.1 Fees
 - 8.2 Financial Help
- 9. International Tier 4 Students**
- 10. Training and Development**
 - 10.1 Health and Safety
 - 10.2 Diversity and Equality Training
 - 10.3 Introduction to Research: Essentials
- 11. eProg electronic monitoring of progression**

- 11.1 Components of eProg
- 11.2 Student Responsibilities
- 11.3 Supervisor and advisor responsibilities
- 11.4 Contacts

12. Attendance

- 12.1 Poor attendance
- 12.2 Reporting absences
- 12.3 Sickness
- 12.4 Holidays
- 12.5 Prolonged absence

13. Course Structure

- 13.1 Personal Development Plan
- 13.2 Taught Courses
 - 13.2.1 Choosing the course units
 - 13.2.2 Literature Review
 - 13.2.3 Blackboard
 - 13.2.4 Assessment of Taught Course Units
 - 13.2.5 General Rules for Submitting Coursework
 - 13.2.6 Examination
 - 13.2.7 Examination Marking Scheme
 - 13.2.8 Progression
 - 13.2.9 Mitigating Circumstances
 - 13.2.10 Appeals Procedure
- 13.3 Submission Pending

14. Research Dissertation

- 14.1 Dissertation Advice
- 14.2 Producing Your Dissertation
 - 14.2.1 Presentation
 - 14.2.2 Background material
 - 14.2.3 Academic Standard
 - 14.2.4 Plagiarism
- 14.3 Thesis Submission
 - 14.3.1 Notice of Submission
 - 14.3.2 Thesis Submission Deadline
 - 14.3.3 Submitting your thesis
 - 14.3.4 After Submission
 - 14.3.5 Appeals Procedure

15. Changes of Circumstance

- 15.1 Mitigating Circumstances
 - 15.1.1 E.gs of what may be considered for mitigating circumstances
 - 15.1.2 Egs of what will not be considered for mitigating circumstances
 - 15.1.3 Evidence
- 15.2 Interruptions
- 15.3 Extensions
 - 15.3.1 Extension of study
 - 15.3.2 Extension of Submission Pending
- 15.4 Completing Changes of Circumstances Forms
- 15.5 Withdrawal
 - 15.5.1 Exit Interview

16. Resources

- 16.1 Postgraduate research student offices
- 16.2 Laboratory Access
- 16.3 Access to the buildings
- 16.4 Computing Facilities
- 16.5 Email
- 16.6 My.Manchester.ac.uk
- 16.7 PGR Common Rooms

17. Graduate Training

18. ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID)

19. The University Language Centre

1. Introduction

The MSc programmes are managed and operated in accordance with the policies, principles, regulations and procedures of the University of Manchester.

This handbook has been put together for MSc by Research students studying in the School of Physics and Astronomy. It is intended to provide a brief description of the course aims and objectives and also the structure of the course. It also explains the management of the course and the various roles of support staff you may encounter during your studies. It is intended as a brief supplement to the information provided by the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences in the Graduate Resource Book.

MSc in Astronomy and Astrophysics

The degree awarded at the successful completion of the course will be MSc in Astronomy and Astrophysics

MSc in Physics

The degree awarded at the successful completion of the course will be MSc Physics (sub-area) where sub-area corresponds to the particular research area in which the student has specialised. Currently the available areas are biological physics, theoretical physics, nuclear physics, particle physics, condensed matter physics, nonlinear & liquid crystals and photon physics

Information is also available on the PG Virtual Common Room in Blackboard at https://online.manchester.ac.uk/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course_id=36109_1&content_id=3558080_1

Further information can be found at the following websites

School of Physics and Astronomy website (<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/physics>)

Faculty of Science and Engineering website (<http://www.se.manchester.ac.uk/>)

University of Manchester website (<http://www.manchester.ac.uk>).

Faculty of Science and Engineering Graduate Office website

(<http://www.graduateducation.eps.manchester.ac.uk/>)

Manchester Doctoral College

(<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/why-manchester/doctoral-college/>)

2. Essential Information

Registration

If you are a new student you will be sent details of how to access your My Manchester account to enable you to register. If you are a returning student you still need to re-register for each year you are on the programme.

Structure of the MSc Programme

You have 1 year to complete your MSc if you are full time. If you are part-time you have up to 2 years. Full details of your responsibilities are detailed in the Handbook.

Your Supervisory Team

Your supervisory team consists of your supervisor, at least one co-supervisor and an advisor. Your supervisor will be your main point of contact whilst you are studying. You should ensure that you meet as soon as possible.

eProg

Your progress is monitored on eProg. You and your Supervisor should ensure that your eProg is kept up-to-date, when you pass milestones and also with your attendance

Attendance

Attendance points are recorded monthly for **ALL** research students. If you have unsatisfactory attendance it could ultimately lead to you being excluded from the programme. Holidays should be agreed with your supervisors and the PGR Admin team should also be informed.

Illness and Mitigating circumstances

If you have significant health, personal, or family problems that are affecting your studies it is vitally important that you inform your supervisor and the PGR admin team promptly. It may be appropriate for you to apply for an interruption to your programme until your problems are resolved. Please note you cannot apply for a retrospective extension to your studies because of earlier problems. If you are in receipt of a stipend interrupting your studies can have an effect on when you receive your money. You must look into this before agreeing to an interruption.

3. Calendar for 2017/2018 Session.

2017

18-22 September Registration Week

25 September Semester 1 lecture courses commence

01 November Annual PhD Networking Event & Poster competition

15 December Semester 1 lecture courses finish

18 December 2017 – 13 January 2017 - Christmas Vacation [no lectures]

2018

15-26 January Semester 1 Examinations

29 January Semester 2 lecture courses commence

26 March – 13 April – Easter Vacation [no lectures]

14 May – 08 June Semester 2 Examinations

30th September Dissertation Submission

11 – 15 December 2017 Graduation

<http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/crucial-guide/academic-life/graduation/>)

09 - 20 July 2018 Graduation

<http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/crucial-guide/academic-life/graduation/>)

4. Course aims and Objectives

The MSc programme is designed for postgraduate students who seek to:

- Pursue a career in research and/or teaching at university level both in the UK and other countries.
- Pursue a career in industry or commerce.
- Further their professional knowledge and standing, by studying and carrying out research in physics and astronomy at the frontiers of human knowledge.

There is emphasis in the course on self-motivation, particularly when undertaking the dissertation. Students are expected to build on the formal teaching, by studying preprints, published papers and conference proceedings, attending seminars, presentations and group meetings in order to expand and develop their knowledge of their field and other areas of physics.

The aims of the lecture modules are to develop and expand the students' knowledge and understanding of current physics and mathematics and to expose them to some of the techniques and tools required for them to undertake research in physics at a professional level.

The aims of the research project are to develop the student's skill to investigate observed or calculated phenomena. In addition the research project will allow the students to develop:

- The ability to work independently and constructively within a research group in the laboratory or theory environment.
- Intellectual and communication skills necessary to present and articulate research findings in verbal and written formats.
- Skills of numerical manipulation, and statistical analysis, of data using sophisticated computer software.

On completion of the MSc programme, a successful student will be able to:

- Critically assess a project to evaluate the best strategy to achieve the desired outcome.
- Plan and manage a research project to appropriate timescales and respond and adapt to changing circumstances.

- Understand the physical basis of the operation of apparatus for measurement (detectors), so that the impact of the apparatus on the physical observations can be understood.
- Understand the essential mathematical descriptions of physical phenomena.
- Use sophisticated computer software to analyse data.
- Link the research findings into physics knowledge obtained variously in lectures, read in journals, encountered in the laboratory or obtained by the student from self-questioning, from the lecturers, supervisors and from other research group colleagues (including other students).
- Write a detailed account of the research undertaken, including its context and conclusions, into a professional research-level document.

5. Your Role as a Student

5.1 The University Code

There are a series of codes laid down by the University of Manchester which highlight what conduct is expected of students and also what they should expect from their supervisors

The link to the webpage that includes this information is at

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/environment/governance/conduct/> and if you scroll down to the bottom of the page there is a document that you can download.

There is also a Code of Practice which can be found at

<http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/graduate/code/>

and the policy on supervision can be found at

<http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/graduate/code/supervision/>

The University Code requirements for students can be summarised in three words: communication, application and motivation. As far as communication is concerned, even experienced supervisors may not be aware of some particular problems and you should take the initiative to make sure that these are communicated to the supervisor. Application and motivation are largely up to the individual but even here, supervisors can help considerably by providing an appropriate working environment. Approachability and accessibility are, of course, an important ingredient for success in research for both you and your supervisor.

5.2 Supervisory Team

It is crucial that postgraduate students attend regularly and maintain a continuous dialogue with their supervisors. Attendance at the courses for which the student has registered is a normal requirement. For those students receiving financial support, it should be noted that the supervisor and Director of PG studies may be required to sign a certificate of satisfactory attendance and work in order for payments to continue.

You and your Advisor will be sent an Introductory Email in the first couple of weeks. There are no formal requirements to meet with the advisor, and no reporting of meetings is required. However, it is recommended that you meet with your advisor within a month or so of starting your MSc and to continue to meet with them from time to time to update them on your progress.

5.3 Attendance

You should consult with your supervisor if you need to be away from the School for any period in excess of a couple of days and ensure that the PGR Admin team are also aware of this. Illness must also be reported to your supervisor, and you should take particular care

that you comply with the regulations of your funding body in the event of protracted absence due to illness or any other reason.

Satisfactory attendance, which is determined by the Supervisor, is required at School and group seminars and workshops that are relevant to the student's research interests. Students are also encouraged to attend other seminars as part of their general scientific education. Since communication is a vital part of science, you may be asked to make a verbal presentation of the results of a literature survey concerning your project or your research data, and there will be opportunities to take part in public engagement activities connected with your research. For further information please see the Attendance section.

5.4 Wellbeing, Health and Changes in Circumstances

Your MSc will be the height of your career so far. It is crucial to look after yourself during your studies to offer the best of your abilities.

The student support team offer a range of ways to help you maintain your well being

<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/taking-care/>

We recommend that you register with a GP if you are new to Manchester even if you are fit and healthy <http://www.choosewellmanchester.org.uk/in-your-area/find-your-nearest-gppharmacydentist/>

If you are suffering from physical or mental health issues which are having an impact on your studies or are unhappy with the MSc Programme please inform your supervisor, advisor or the PGR admin team and we will be able to let you know the options available to you. Please do not suffer in silence.

Please also see Section 15 below for further information.

5.5 Communication

You will be given an "@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk" email address when you accept your MSc place. This is the e-mail where the University and School will communicate with you. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with the communications that arrive at this address.

Students are responsible for updating their personal details in the student system by going to 'My Manchester'. If you have problems logging in please contact 0161 275 5000 or email selfservice@manchester.ac.uk and not the School of Physics and Astronomy. **Students must, however, inform the PGR Admin Team immediately by e-mail of any change of name made to the student system, Campus Solutions.**

6. Contacts and People

The MSc programme is managed and operated in accordance with the policies, principles, regulations and procedures of the University of Manchester.

6.1 Management of the Programme

The day-to-day management of the programme within the School of Physics and Astronomy is handled by the Director of Postgraduate Education, Professor Philippa Browning. Decisions on the programme are made by the Postgraduate Committee, which includes representatives of each of the research group and Postgraduate Research Student Representatives. The Postgraduate Committee meet twice a year, usually in November and in March.

The ordinances and regulations for the programme can be found at

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=15731>

6.2. MSc by Research Programme Directors

The MSc by Research Programme Directors are responsible for day-to-day management of the MScR programmes, and they also act as advisor to the MScR students.

The MSc by Research Programme Director in Astronomy and Astrophysics is Neal Jackson and Anna Scaife is the deputy advisor and can also be approached for advice and support.

The MSc by Research Programme Director in Physics is Gavin Smith.

6.2.2 MSc by Research in Physics Programme Director

6.3 Your Research Group

Postgraduate training in the School of Physics and Astronomy differs from undergraduate training in many ways. An important feature is that the student becomes an integral part of a research group working in their chosen field. The research group provides the kind of close support and guidance which is unfeasible at undergraduate level and which should become one of the many rewarding research experiences.

You will interact with other PG students in your research group, and usually with other academics and postdoctoral researchers. You may learn a lot through these interactions.

The School also supports a peer-mentoring programme in which experienced, trained, postgraduate students act as mentors for less experienced PG students. For more details please contact your supervisor.

6.4 Supervisors and Co-Supervisors

Each MSc student is assigned a Supervisor and a Co-Supervisor to help guide them through their studies. These supervisors are responsible for allocating and discussing the project and

will respond to day-to-day queries on science and administration. There are codes and policies on how the supervisory team should act (please see Section 5.1) but the University Code can only be a guideline whose detailed application depends on circumstances. The most important general requirements are that the supervisor is approachable and accessible, and that when advice or recommendations are given, you feel that they are constructive and fair. A very important part of the supervisor's responsibility is in helping to plan your work to match deadlines, for example, in connection with the various reports that you must complete. This implies that frequent and adequate consultation between you and your supervisor takes place. A reasonable guide to this is a minimum contact time of an hour each week. Supervisors are expected to make suitable arrangements for supervision in the event of their absence. All MSc Students are allocated a Co-Supervisor who offer support towards the research too, although the degree of involvement of the co-supervisor in the project varies.

6.5 Advisors

The main role of the advisor is to provide pastoral support to the student and to monitor their progress, providing advice accordingly. If the student has any difficulties that he/she would prefer to discuss with someone other than their supervisor, they can approach their advisor in the first instance.

The advisor may have some experience in the student's research area, and, if so can provide some academic input, however, this is not a requirement of the role. The advisor may usefully offer an independent view of the project from a different perspective.

You and your advisor will be sent an introductory email during the first couple of weeks. It is recommended that you meet up with your advisor within the first couple of months of starting your course and from time to time thereafter

6.6 Taught Course Unit Tutors

As part of the MSc you will need to take a number of taught course units. The Taught Course Unit Tutor will be your contact for anything to do with the particular course unit. The tutor will also need to know that you are a Postgraduate Student as they will need to set you extra coursework.

6.7 PGR Representatives

There is a PGR Representative from each of the research areas. The invitation to become the group PG student representative is made typically via research group PG co-ordinators who ask all eligible students if they wish to undertake this role.

The PGR Representatives are there to act as a formal way of communicating suggestions, ideas and areas of concern from PGR students to the school. The PGR Representatives are requested to attend a meeting every 3 months where they can discuss PGR student issues.

Details of how to become a PGR Representative can be found at [https://online.manchester.ac.uk/webapps/blackboard/execute/content/file?cmd=view&mode=designer&content_id= 5103721_ 1&course_id= 36109_ 1](https://online.manchester.ac.uk/webapps/blackboard/execute/content/file?cmd=view&mode=designer&content_id=5103721_1&course_id=36109_1)

PGR Representatives are members of the Postgraduate Committee and thus are invited to attend these meetings.

6.8 Research Group Administrators

Each Research Group has an administrator who is responsible for looking after the day to day administration for PGR students. They typically can help with expense claim forms, booking travel and hotels for conferences, creating bank letters for new starters and ordering stationery

6.9 PGR Administration Team

The Postgraduate Administration team is located in the Teaching and Learning Office (currently in the Braddick Library, First Floor, Schuster). The PG Manager is Mrs Mel McLoughlin and the PG Research Administrator is Mrs Amanda Aspinall PGR-Admin-Physics@manchester.ac.uk. General enquiries should be addressed to Amanda Aspinall in the first instance.

The PGR Administration Team is your first point of call if you have any problems with your eProg or My Manchester records or if you need a change of circumstance form or have a problem with your stipends. The PGR Administrator will send out timely reminders regarding important dates and crucial information throughout your time at the university so please pay attention to any emails you receive from the PGR-Admin-Physics@manchester.ac.uk address. Tier 4 students will also meet the PGR Administration Team when they come in to sign the Census forms. The team can also help with CAS continuer forms.

6.10 Health and Safety Officer

The Health and Safety Officer, Nicola Hutchings is responsible for ensuring the health and safety of the School of Physics and Astronomy. You will have an induction with Nicola when you first arrive as a MScR student.

6.11 Student Experience Officer

The Student Experience Officer in the School of Physics and Astronomy has a key role in enhancing the student experience and research environment of all PGR students within the School of Physics and Astronomy. Areas of responsibility, organisation and support include; Careers and Employability events for PGRs, an Induction event for new students, as well as key events for continuing students, PGR student rep support and engagement and signposting for the University's PGR Wellbeing initiative. The Student Experience Officer is Sue Huzar and can be contacted at sue.huzar@manchester.ac.uk

6.12 Student Support Officer

The School of Physics and Astronomy has a Student Support Officer, Geraldine Garrabet. You are encouraged to discuss all issues which may affect your progress with your supervisor in the first instance, and your advisor is also available to help with personal and general academic issues.

If you have personal or serious health problems which are affecting your work, you should consider talking to Geraldine. Everything will be treated in confidence, but the sooner we know of problems the sooner we can help you. Don't bottle things up till a crisis is reached.

6.13 Student Services Centre

The Student Services Centre (SSC) at the University is a central point for information for all students. They can advise on immigration, examinations, certificates, transcripts, sources of funding, fee payment and registration.

6.14 Student Support Centre

The Student Support Centre offer support and advice on issues affecting your student life, with signposting and referral to more specialist services. If you're not sure where to go, we're a good place to start. Find us in the Atrium on the first floor of University Place. Contact them on 0161 275 3033/3781 or email: studentsupport@manchester.ac.uk

6.15 Students' Union and Advice Service

The University of Manchester Students' Union is dedicated to the social, educational and welfare needs of all students.

As a student of the University you automatically become a member of the National Union of Students (NUS), which allows you to participate in events organised by the Students' Union.

The Students' Union building is the centre of student activities and includes shops, an advice service, concert venues, a cafe and a bar. The University's newspaper, radio station and over 100 societies are also based here.

For further information, visit [The Students' Union website](#).

7. Registration

7.1 New students

There are a number of ways a student can complete their registration. Please visit the Student Admissions and Administration website

<http://www.saa.manchester.ac.uk/registration/registration--process/how-to-register/>

7.2 Returning students

If you are a returning student you still need to re-register each year at the start month of your programme by visiting [My Manchester](#).

8. Finance

8.1 Fees

It is important that your fees are paid in a timely manner, whether you are self-funding or are being sponsored. If your fees are delayed you may incur a late registration charge. For more details on how to pay please visit

<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/tuition-fees/payments/>

8.2 Financial help

The Student Support website has advice on how to budget and financial advice

<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/money-matters/>.

They also have a list of funding opportunities for Postgraduate Research Students

<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/>

UK and (possibly) EU Students can also find out information regarding the new PhD Loans here <https://www.findaphd.com/funding/guides/uk-phd-loans-scheme.aspx>

9. International and Tier 4 Students

The Student Services Team are your first point of contact for any issues relating to your visa, your CAS or your ATAS. They can be found at number 57? On the campus Map or you can contact the visa team on visa@manchester.ac.uk

Census

The University operates attendance monitoring census points within the academic year in order to confirm the attendance of students holding a Tier 4 Student Visa. This is to ensure the University meets the UKVI statutory requirements as a sponsor of Tier 4 students and its responsibilities in accordance with its Highly Trusted Sponsor status.

If you are a Tier 4 visa holder, you must attend these attendance monitoring census points, in addition to complying with the School's own programme attendance requirements.

When are the census points?

In the 2017/2018 academic year, the attendance monitoring census points will be during the following periods:

Census Point	Dates	Population
October 2017	25th September - 6th October 2017	All active Tier 4 students
January 2018	15th January - 26th January 2018	All active Tier 4 students
May/June 2018	17th May - 6th June 2018	All active Tier 4 students
July 2018	16th July - 27th July 2018	All PG Tier 4 students

Please note:

- If you are a new student, registration is your first point to confirm your attendance at the University and you will not be required to attend a further census point in October 2017.
- Postgraduate taught and research students will also have an additional attendance monitoring census point in the period **16 July to 27 July 2018**
- You will receive an email from the School to confirm when and where you should attend to have your attendance confirmed. You must check your University e-mail

account regularly. Failure to check your email account is not a valid reason to be absent from a census point.

What if a Tier 4 student cannot attend a census point?

If you cannot attend in person due to a valid reason which includes: illness; placement; field studies; on year abroad; research work; or any other reason connected to your programme of study, you must email the PGR Admin Team on PGR-Admin-Physics@manchester.ac.uk to inform us of your absence and your inability to attend in person. In the case of illness, you must provide a copy of a medical certificate. If you are in this position you should report in person to the PGR Admin Team as soon as possible after you return to campus.

Students who are recorded as interrupting their studies are not expected to attend during their period of interruption.

What happens if a student does not attend a census point?

The School must be able to confirm your presence to the UKVI by the end of each census point in the academic year. If you do not attend a census point when required by your School and you do not provide a valid explanation for your absence you will be deemed to be “not in attendance”.

Those students identified as “not in attendance” will be reported to the UKVI and the University will cease to sponsor the student’s Tier 4 visa. The Tier 4 visa will then be curtailed and the student must leave the UK within 60 days.

Further information

For more information on Tier 4 visas:

<https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa>.

If you have any concerns about the attendance monitoring census points, or your Tier 4 visa status, please contact visa@manchester.ac.uk

10. Training and Development

10.1 Health and Safety

September Starters

You will have a brief health and safety induction during your welcome week with the Health and Safety Officer, Nicola Hutchings. If you are based in a laboratory it is essential that you also attend the Laboratory Induction course.

In addition all Research Students are required to complete an **Online Health and Safety course**

<https://app.manchester.ac.uk/training/profile.aspx?unitid=4705&parentId=4>

You can apply for the course via the link above or in your eProg.

10.2 Diversity and Equality Training

The University is taking steps to ensure its employees and students receive the appropriate training that will equip them with the necessary skills and abilities required to work in a diverse environment. We believe it's important that employees and students are aware of their personal responsibilities as a member of the University community.

This online module intends to support you to become familiar with equalities legislation; gain an understanding of the broader issues of equality and diversity; to know your responsibilities and rights as a member of staff of the University.

This interesting module will provide managers, staff and students with the support required to help them work more effectively in a diverse environment.

The training will take approximately one hour and can be stopped and restarted back at the same point by bookmarking at the relevant stage.

There are separate modules for staff and students - both are presented in a slightly different way and may concentrate on particular areas - however, both have the same aim and will cover the same areas.

Please read instructions one to six carefully before proceeding:

1. Select [Diversity in the Work Place](#) - this will take you to an external website.
2. You must select 'New Users - register here'.
3. You should then input your personal details, first name, last name and email address.
4. Using the drop down menu you should scroll down until you find your directorate/section or faculty/school. If you cannot find your section/school please [contact](#) the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Team.
5. Once all your details are complete select 'register'.
6. Following this you will receive an e-mail from Marshalls that will confirm your registration and provide you with a temporary password. Please check your 'junk mail' folder if you cannot see your mail confirmation.

PLEASE NOTE: As this data is held by an external third party you must not use your University Account password when registering for this site, or when prompted to create a new password - please create an alternative password.

What will happen to my test results?

Please be assured this is not a test, it is intended to be a safe environment where you can test your existing knowledge and potentially learn something new. Although there are some helpful quizzes along the way to test what you know this is not intended to assess any individual's knowledge of equality and diversity.

The system requires your personal details to monitor the percentage of take up in each area.

10.3 Introduction to Research: Essentials

New postgraduate students are expected to attend the research skills course, 'Introduction to Research: Essentials', which will address their information seeking needs. This is consistent with the Researcher Development Framework (page 4):

<http://www.vitae.ac.uk/CMS/files/upload/Vitae-Researcher-Development-Framework.pdf>

This workshop aims to give you a greater understanding of what to expect when studying a research degree, the ability to plan the first stages of your research and an awareness of the support services, training opportunities and the ethical requirements of your research. The workshop also provides an excellent opportunity for meeting and working with postgraduates from across the Faculty and offers the chance to establish peer and support networks.

The workshop covers:

- You and Your MSc (where do you fit, your research community, networks, influence, outputs and outcomes, motivations)
- Stages of an MSc (what to expect, regulations, milestones and progression, eProg, University structure)
- Supervisor Relationships (expectations, responsibilities, management)
- Academic Integrity (research conduct, Intellectual Property, authorship, plagiarism)
- Graduate Development (personal development planning, Researcher Development Framework, your skills audit, training and development opportunities, recording and reflecting)
- Project and Time Management (project planning, management, meetings, self and time management)
- Questions / Answers and Action Planning

You can book your place by going to the training calendar

<https://app.manchester.ac.uk/FEPSS8004>

11. eProg Electronic Monitoring of progression

eProg is a University-wide system for postgraduate researchers to record and monitor progression throughout their programme and manage skills training activities. The eProg system offers an online platform for academic staff and their PGR students to record and track key milestones throughout the student's programme, from the point of registration to thesis examination. The system also provides access to an extensive catalogue of skills training activities across the University.

An eProg User Guide for Students is available at

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=21084>

Accessing eProg

eProg can be accessed via the *Student Portal* by going to

<https://my.manchester.ac.uk/uPortal/f/home/normal/render.uP>

11.1 Components of eProg

eProg is made up of the following components:

- Personal timelines: Each student has a personalised bespoke timeline that provides a visual representation of forthcoming key milestones and information that make up your programme of study.
- Progression: Each student has their own progression area that provides a detailed list of milestones and skills training activities with the dates or deadlines attached.
- Online forms: Students will be required to complete online progression forms that are tied to individual milestones. These forms provide a formal record of meetings or discussions between you, your supervisor and your advisor. It also provides an opportunity for any issues or problems to be raised. All forms and the deadlines by which they must be completed can be found on your eProg progression page. You can access, complete and save information at any time prior to these meetings and we recommend that you do this so that information is available to review before each meeting takes place. At the meeting your supervisor or advisor will complete the remainder of the form with their comments and feedback. This provides us with a record that you are making satisfactory progress.
- Skills training: A skills training area where students can search training events across the University, book onto any courses of interest and view courses they are registered for or have attended.
- Help and support: Help and advice on how to use eProg and useful links to online training (in Blackboard).

11.2 Student responsibilities

Your responsibilities as a student are:

- to meet with your supervisor and advisor to review progress and to complete the appropriate online forms,
- to attend/complete all mandatory skills training components.

11.3 Supervisor and advisor responsibilities

The supervisor's and advisor's responsibilities are:

- to meet or liaise with their students in a timely manner to discuss student's progress and to submit the appropriate online progression forms,
- to encourage attendance of their students at all required skills training events.

11.4 Contacts

For queries relating to specific milestones on your programme or if your eProg record seems to have any errors, please contact the PGR Admin team at PGR-Admin-Physics@manchester.ac.uk

12. Attendance

Recording and monitoring student attendance is a University requirement as documented in The [Policy on Recording and Monitoring Attendance](#)

Attendance points for postgraduate research students will be recorded monthly via the attendance and engagement forms within the University's online progression system, eProg. It is the main supervisor's (or appropriate member of the supervisory team's) responsibility to ensure that attendance and engagement forms are completed in a timely manner for each of their students.

12.1 Poor Attendance

Where a student's attendance and engagement has not been recorded for two consecutive months or where a cause for concern is recorded, the PGR Administrator will contact the student and request that they attend a meeting with their Programme Director (or nominee) or Director of PG studies.

If the student fails to respond to this request to meet with the Programme Director (or nominee) or Director of PG studies, within 5 working days, and/or is absent on one further occasion, or attends the meeting but fails to provide a satisfactory explanation for not complying with the attendance requirements of the programme, the School will issue a formal warning.

The warning will indicate the steps to be taken to affect the necessary improvement in attendance, including the consequences of further poor attendance. This letter will be kept in the eProg personal document store for postgraduate research students.

In instances where the School is satisfied that circumstances exist that show good cause for the student's failure to comply with the attendance requirements, alternative action may be taken. This should include referral to relevant support services where appropriate. Information about sources of support can be found at the end of this document.

If a student fails to comply with the steps to be taken to improve attendance the School committee may refuse the student permission to proceed on their programme, with the consequences that s/he may be excluded from the programme of study.

A student who is refused permission to take any form of assessment or progress on the grounds of unsatisfactory attendance may submit an appeal against that decision within ten working days of the notification of the decision, in accordance with the provisions of [Regulation XIX](#) (Academic Appeals).

The University expects that all students will attend every timetabled teaching or learning session or required supervisory session, unless absence has been authorised.

12.2 Reporting Absences

It is crucial that you report any absences that you may have to your supervisor and to the PGR Administration Team if the absence is longer than one week.

12.3 Sickness

If you are absent due to illness you should report this to your supervisor in the first instance.

If your illness is ongoing and likely to have an impact on your studies, please see the Changes to Circumstance section below. You are expected to take an Interruption if the period of illness exceeds 4 weeks. Note that the total duration of interruptions over the course of the MSc programme may not exceed ?? months

12.4 Holidays

Students may, with the prior agreement of their supervisor, take up to eight weeks' holiday in each year (pro rata for parts of year), inclusive of weekends and public holidays. Students receiving sponsorship are expected to bear in mind their obligations to the sponsor and consult the policy of their sponsor when planning leave. If you are going on holiday please ensure that you also inform the PGR Admin team.

12.5 Prolonged absence

If you feel that you are going to need a prolonged period of absence please speak to your Supervisor. There are a number of ways in which we can help you. Please also refer to the Changes to Circumstances section below

13 Course Structure

As an MScR Student you have 1 year* to complete your MScR, or up to 2 years if you are part time. The course will normally consist of a 135 credit research project, in addition to 45 credits of taught content, making 180 credits in total.

In addition, students may be required to attend group meetings, seminars, presentations or other events. This should be done as soon as possible at the beginning of the course once the supervisor/project has been confirmed, preferably within the first week of term, and by no later than the end of the second week.

***PLEASE NOTE** that although the course is nominally of 1-year duration for full time students, the thesis will need to be examined by 2 examiners (one external) and may require significant corrections. This means that in many cases, students will only formally be awarded an MSc several months after the end of the programme. This also means that the first opportunity to formally graduate will usually be the following summer (July), rather than in December, depending on the examination process. (Attendance at graduation is not compulsory and does not affect the award of the MSc).

“Submission pending” (see Section 14.4 below) allows a period of time for writing-up your thesis, if you have not completed this within your registration period. Note that “submission-pending” can only be used for writing-up, not for further research.

13.1 Personal Development Plan

A research degree is about more than academic research. During your programme you will develop and acquire skills and knowledge that complement your academic work. These skills are the key to a strong CV and are what employers are looking for in potential employees.

The University supports postgraduates in developing their skills by ensuring that you are able to self-assess your own development requirements, that there are suitable training and development opportunities, and that you are encouraged to recognise your personal achievement. The process used to facilitate this is called **Personal Development Planning (PDP)**.

http://www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate_home/personal_development_planning/

13.2 Taught Courses

The taught content will serve to provide the student with research skills and a depth of specialist knowledge that is directly applicable to the field of research.

The taught content will consist of course units, normally comprising three 15 credit course units. These will usually occur in the first semester to ensure that the student has undertaken the necessary skills training and acquisition of specialist knowledge prior to

beginning their research proper. However, depending on the options requested, one or two modules may occur in the second semester.

13.2.1 Choosing the course units

Students may only choose from a list of approved taught modules. The list of available of taught modules can be found at https://online.manchester.ac.uk/courses/1/l3039-COMMUNITY-EPS-PHYS-PG-COMMON-ROOM-1/content/3949838_1/embedded/Pg%20courses%20full%20list%202017-18.pdf

An MSc student may take no more than one 15 credit level 3 course. The exact taught modules each student will undertake will be agreed between the student, supervisor, advisor and if necessary, the MSc Programme Director.

Once the course unit is selected please inform the PGR Admin team who will notify the Course Tutor. If the course unit is an undergraduate unit the course tutor will need to provide you with extra assessment to make up the extra credits.

13.2.2 Literature Review

There is also an option to undertake a Literature Review for 15 credits instead of one of the taught courses. This would be organised and supported by your supervisor. This module can be taken only once, but can occur in either semester as agreed by your supervisor and the MSc programme director. This would normally comprise a comprehensive review of the field written up as a small dissertation of around 20 pages.

MSc Astronomy and Astrophysics

For the MSc Astronomy and Astrophysics the topic of the literature review is normally that of the background to the MSc project but it is generally somewhat wider.

MSc Physics

For MSc Physics the Literature Review should be based on your general field of study but it must be on a topic which is not that of your MSc project

13.2.3 Blackboard

Each course unit will have a presence in Blackboard. Blackboard is a web-based system that complements and builds upon traditional learning methods used at The University of Manchester. By using Blackboard you can:

- view course materials and learning resources;
- communicate with lectures and other students;
- collaborate in groups;
- get feedback;
- submit assignments;
- monitor your own progress;

at a time and place of your own convenience. You can find up to date information about Blackboard on the University webpages at

<http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/blackboard/>

13.2.4 Assessment of Taught Course Units

The method of assessment for taught course units varies from unit to unit and may consist of written examinations, interviews and oral assessments, continuous assessment in any of a number of different forms including example sheets, the production of written reports or the presentation of seminars, or a combination of these.

Details of the method of assessment for your particular choices can be found at ????

You must ensure you know the deadline for your assessment and comply with the rules below

13.2.5 General Rules for submitting Assessed Coursework

- Any late piece of work will lose 10 marks per day for 5 days after which a mark of zero will be awarded.
- All students must submit two copies of all pieces of assessed work. Only one Assessed Coursework Coversheet is required for both copies.
- Assessed Coursework **MUST NOT** be spiral bound or in plastic pockets and **MUST** be anonymous – **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON EITHER COPY OF THE ESSAY OR ASSESSED COURSEWORK.**
- Assessed work must be submitted between the hours of 10am until 4pm. Any assessed work not submitted by 4pm on the day of the deadline will be deemed to be late.
- PLEASE NOTE that coursework may not be handed in on behalf of another student. If any student is unable to submit by the deadline they must bring evidence of mitigating circumstances (eg medical note) in order not to incur a late submission penalty.
- The deadline for receipt of Mitigating Circumstances forms and the evidence to support them is the last day of the examination period in the relevant semester. (Please see below for further details of Mitigating Circumstances)
- All assessed coursework must be submitted before the examination period begins so deadlines will only be set during term time and before the first day of examinations. Deadlines will not be permitted on Fridays as the penalties for late submission are enforceable over the weekend which may disadvantage students who miss the deadline.

13.2.6 Examination

Your course taught units may be assessed by examination. The examination period for Semester One is 15th – 26th January 2018 and for Semester Two is 14th May – 8th June 2018. You will be informed of the date of your examination by the Exams Office. They will send you a link and you will be able to see more details in My Manchester.

13.2.7 Examination Marking Scheme

In examination papers, a marking scheme is given as a guide to the relative importance of different parts of each question. Examiners follow these guidelines, but they may make small amendments in order to take into account how questions have been answered by the majority of students.

The School has in place a number of measures for ensuring fair and accurate marking of examination scripts and recording of marks, including double checking of marks entered on grids and checking of scripts where progression or resit decisions could be affected.

No additional credit is given to students who answer more than the number of questions specified on the exam paper. If, for example, three questions have been answered (in whole or in part) when only two are required, then the last question attempted will be ignored. If you have attempted a question, but do not wish it to be marked, because you wish a later answer to be marked instead, you should cross through the unwanted attempt. Examiners will use their discretion to judge what constitutes an attempt.

If a student has genuine cause to believe that a mistake has been made in the marking, they may request, via the School Office, to have the marking checked. There is a fee for this, currently £15 per paper, which is refunded if the mark is found to be wrong by more than 5%. Checking is done by an independent member of the academic staff, using the original marking scheme. The checking could result in a lower mark. Experience over the years shows that such checks rarely lead to any changes. Any requests for checking must be made no later than 20 working days after the publication of examination results.

In line with the University Policy on Feedback to students, an opportunity will be granted to students who request to see their exam scripts, but this will usually be some time after the exam, and is not formally connected with the checking procedure specified here.

13.2.8 Progression

Marks for the taught component of the course will be considered by an examination board at the end of each teaching semester.

Students who fail to achieve the required pass mark of **50%** in a taught module, may at the discretion of the examination board, be allowed to undertake on one further occasion an additional assessment in that unit.

The form of this re- assessment is at the discretion of the course unit leader. Please note that all components of assessment in any resat course unit must be passed at 50%.

Whatever the actual mark of a resat assessment the maximum mark to be awarded for resubmitted coursework or retaken examination will be 50% on transcripts and will be marked with an R (re-assessed work). **Please note that no compensation of marks is allowed.**

Any student who is required to resit one or more course units will not be eligible to achieve a Merit or Distinction at Masters Level.

13.2.9 Mitigating Circumstances

Any student who feels they have mitigating circumstances which prevent them from submitting assessed coursework or attending examinations should fill in the Mitigating Circumstances Form and attach the appropriate supporting documentation and submit both by the appropriate deadline. In each semester this deadline will be the last day of the examination period.

First Semester: 26th January 2018

Second Semester: 8th June 2018

The form can be downloaded at:

https://online.manchester.ac.uk/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course_id=36109_1&content_id=3558080_1&mode=reset

13.2.10 Appeals Procedure

In the event that a student wishes to appeal against a mark, grading or a decision on progression, it is important that the appeal is made to the MSc Programme Director in writing (or e-mail) as soon as possible. A copy of any supporting documentation (not the original) should be supplied. The postgraduate committee undertakes to promptly consider and deal with appeals on the grounds of bias, prejudice or inadequate assessments as set out in the University Regulations. The decision on the appeal will be notified to the student by the MSc Programme Director. Thereafter, if the student wishes to take the matter further, the MSc Programme Director will refer the circumstances to the Director of Postgraduate Studies and the Head of School who may deal with the matter within the School or advise the student to contact the Faculty.

13.3

Submission Pending

If you are unable to submit your dissertation on time you may be able to apply for Submission Pending. This should be established within your discussions you have with your supervisor when you talk about submitting. Ideally this should be before the Notice of Submission period ends or at the very latest before your final date of submission.

To qualify for Submission Pending you will need to complete a Submission Pending Form, please request this from PGR-Admin-Physics@manchester.ac.uk

The form is completed by the student, supervisor and is then passed on to the PG Director. You will need to complete a summary of what work has been done so far. (This usually takes the form of a list under each chapter of your thesis) You will also need to include an outline of the work needed to complete your thesis.

You will be given four months to complete your thesis whilst you are in Submission Pending

EProg will update with your new Expected end date and will open up a Notice of Submission two months before you are due to submit. Please follow the Notice of Submission procedures as normal.

Please note there is a fee to go into Submission Pending which is currently £225.

14. Research Dissertation

At the end of your MScR Programme you are required to submit a research dissertation

Each student will be allocated a dissertation supervisor who will guide the dissertation research. The dissertation will be marked by an internal examiner, who is not the student's supervisor, and an external examiner nominated by the supervisor. A research project and supervisor will be assigned shortly after the start of the course.

The student generally works on the project throughout the course, though for the first part of the course, time is divided between project work and lectures. From May onwards the student works full time on the given project.

14.1 Dissertation Advice

The production of a MScR Dissertation is almost certainly the largest single academic and literary task you will have attempted. Few students realise how much effort goes into the production of a worthy thesis. A typical timescale is about four to six months. There are varying attitudes by both supervisors and students to reading and commenting on drafts of dissertations. This depends largely on the individuals concerned, but it is important to agree on the procedure early on to avoid misunderstanding. The importance of clear writing in good English cannot be overstressed.

It is worthwhile looking at a few examples of recent dissertations before starting to plan your own dissertation. The reader should be assumed to be a physicist in your field of research, although not an expert in the particular work described. The most useful recommendation is to make your dissertation tell a good story; do not flip haphazardly from subject to subject, and keep your best results and conclusions to the end. Most complaints from external examiners centre on poor spelling, punctuation and illogical presentation of topics; it is well worthwhile having a colleague read your final draft to weed these out.

14.2 Producing your dissertation

14.2.1 Presentation

Presentation should be of a high standard with no spelling, typographical, grammatical or punctuation errors. Tenses should be consistent and appropriate. Notation should be consistent. There must be sensible numbering of equations, tables, figures, references and other items. Jargon must be avoided. Graphs must have sensible scales and labelled axes.

Guidance on the presentation of MSc by Research dissertations can be found at <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=7441>

14.2.2 Background material

The dissertation should include a description of relevant background material and literature, including theory and experimental equipment, to enable the reader to understand the research, and to demonstrate the author's understanding. This description should not be a mere list, but show evidence of critical judgment, e.g. by explaining why certain choices were made. The main reason for the thesis is to demonstrate the author's actual work and contributions to the research undertaken. Hence the amount of background which is given should not be excessive; 20-30% of the dissertation is normally regarded as a reasonable proportion.

14.2.3 Academic Standard

It is important that the work be described in sufficient detail so that another researcher could confidently repeat it. Most importantly, the reader must be able to assess the reliability of the conclusions, i.e. the author must convince the reader that the results can be justified and should be believed. The thesis material should be set in the context of current research; other relevant work must be cited, and if appropriate compared to that which has been undertaken.

Ideally, the content of a dissertation should be suitable and ready for publication and this should be the goal. However it is realised that this may not always be possible in the time available. At the very least it should be straightforward for the supervisor, or some other colleague, to bring your work to the stage for publication.

14.2.4 Plagiarism.

Plagiarism is the unreferenced use of other authors' material in your assignments and thesis. **If you reference other people's work it must be acknowledged clearly.**

The University's regulations state very clearly that plagiarism is a serious academic offence and the consequences of committing such an offence are severe.

All students should read the guidance notes on plagiarism and academic malpractice which are available at: <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/policies/>

If you are in any doubt you must seek guidance from your supervisor. The induction process with which you start your programme also contains a section on plagiarism to help you. Here are some simple examples for which you need a reference:

A direct quotation from a book or article or the web

If a **book** quote:

Author (year of publication), title, publisher

If a **paper** in a journal quote:

Author (year of publication) paper title, journal title, volume, volume number, page numbers

If on the **web** quote:

Author, URL, (retrieved date)

- when you are reporting **someone else's views** but writing them in your own words:
(author)
- when you are using **someone else's work** to back one or your claims:
(author)

Good advice: if in doubt, it is always better to quote the reference

Further advice on Plagiarism from the Researcher Development Manager

"Plagiarism is one of those things that most people say they understand and would never do it, while also being something most worry about. I know I've heard concerns about plagiarism involving mathematical proofs, where they thought all quoting was BAD, but in some cases, you wouldn't dream of paraphrasing a theorem. In this case, it is of course OK to quote directly as long as it is clear. I imagine there are things in Physics like that. All examiners look for is if you're trying to pass somebody else's work off as your own. And then there's the 'standard practice' as to how much quoting is used in different disciplines: e.g. greater in Humanities than Physics."

But here's a summary of what we currently mention to PGRs:

Plagiarism is covered briefly (about 10-15 minutes) in the [Introduction to Research](#) workshop, giving the top options:

1. Paraphrase (if using others' ideas, even sparingly)
2. Use your own ideas
3. Quote (if using author's exact words)
4. Cite the source (if using figures/graphs/etc.)
5. Reference (for an entire research paper)

PGRs are also given links to online materials:

1. Our Academic Writing modules which mostly covers 'How to Paraphrase':
 - a. http://www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk/learning_bytes/academic_writing/index.html
2. the Library Essentials material at:
 - a. <https://www.escholar.manchester.ac.uk/learning-objects/mle/avoiding-plagiarism/>

Plagiarism is also covered in the [Academic Writing](#) workshop, where the main emphasis is to learn how to paraphrase.

I think there is also some info in the Research Integrity online modules the University has bought into to fulfil the [HEFCE Research Integrity Concordat](#):

<https://researchskills.epigeum.com>

These may be made compulsory in 2017/18 for ALL PhDs to show compliance with HEFCE

There is also some guidance from other Universities:

Newcastle: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wdc/learning/conduct/>

Monash, Australia: <http://www.monash.edu/rlo/research-writing-assignments/referencing-and-academic-integrity/citing-and-referencing>

14.3 Dissertation Submission

Dissertations should be submitted in accordance with the information set out in the guidance on the presentation of MSc by Research dissertations

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=7441>

14.3.1 Notice of Submission

At least two months prior to the submission of a dissertation, a student must complete and submit a Notice of Submission Form which will automatically become available in the Examination Summary part of eProg.

You are asked to sign off a number of declarations on the Notice of Submission form. They are listed below as a checklist to ensure you are ready to submit. (The language of this form is primarily with PhD students in mind, for thesis please read that as dissertation)

1. Have you checked that your thesis will have no copyright or Intellectual Property infringements?
2. Have you have read and complied with University guide lines on academic malpractice?
<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=2870>
3. Have you discussed access rights to your thesis with your supervisor ?
4. Do you understand your thesis may be subjected to plagiarism software?
5. Do you understand that your degree can not be conferred if you have any relevant outstanding debts with the University? <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=2870>
6. Have you discussed your intent to submit with your supervisor?
7. Have you referred to the University's Presentation of Theses Policy?
<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=7420>
8. Have you referred to the Supervision Policy for Postgraduate Research Degrees?
<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=615>

Once you have completed and submitted your Notice of Submission form this your supervisor will receive word and they will be able to authorise your submission. This will then enable the Faculty Graduate Office to open up your submission window.

14.3.2 Dissertation Deadline

Your final submission deadline is **30th September 2018**.

If you believe that you need longer to write up your thesis you may be entitled to go into Submission Pending. (Please see 13.3 above)

14.3.3 Submitting your dissertation

You will be notified by the Research Office Graduate Education Team when you are able to submit an electronic version of your thesis. **This is usually 3 days before your final submission date.**

You submit your electronic thesis via My Manchester in PDF format. For further information regarding this please see the below document

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=32871>

On or before your final submission date you are required to submit two printed and bound copies of your thesis to the Research Office Graduate Education Team based in C4, Sackville Street Building.

Once the team are satisfied that your print and electronic submissions adhere to all University rules and guidelines governing thesis submissions, the Administrator will acknowledge receipt of your eThesis submission.

You can find a guide to postgraduate research thesis/dissertation submission & examination in the Faculty of Science and Engineering at

https://online.manchester.ac.uk/bbcswebdav/pid-3950287-dt-content-rid-12337209_1/orgs/I3039-COMMUNITY-EPS-PHYS-PG-COMMON-ROOM-1/Thesis%20Info/Sub2Exam%20FAQ%20v%203.pdf

Your Faculty support contact for submission/examination in eProg is Lee Wilkinson (Senior Project Officer – Graduate Education). If you have any concerns or problems with your electronic or physical dissertation submission, please contact EPSGRADED@manchester.ac.uk or

Telephone +44 (0)161 306 8990

14.3.4 After Submission

Once you have received confirmation of your submission from the Research Office Graduate Education Team you can follow what is happening with the examination of your dissertation on your Examination Summary on eProg.

The dissertation will be read by an external examiner, appointed by the Faculty of Science and Engineering Graduate School on the recommendation of the supervisor and Director of PG studies, and by an internal examiner who will be a member of the academic staff.

The examiners will normally make a recommendation about award of the degree on the basis of this reading, but in exceptional circumstances may call the candidate for an oral examination before making this recommendation. The examiners may recommend acceptance of the dissertation (with or without minor corrections) for the award of an MSc, possibly with distinction, or if the dissertation is not of a sufficient standard, re-submission in amended form, or outright rejection. (Re-submitted dissertations cannot be awarded distinction.)

At the recommendation of the Examiners, students will normally be allowed one resubmission of a failed dissertation or project and this will normally be within four months of the date of the publication of the result. The Examiners, may, exceptionally, decide not to allow resubmission. The Faculty will agree that the grounds for allowing/not allowing a resubmission are justified.

On successful completion of the programme within the normal time frame, graduation can take place in December.

14.3.5 Requirements for the Award of Degree

For the award of the MSc a student will be required to obtain an average mark of not less than 50% in the taught modules and their dissertation must be deemed to be at a satisfactory level by the examiners.

Students with an average mark of 70% or higher in the taught units and with a dissertation deemed by the examiners to be of a suitable standard may be awarded a distinction. Any student who is required to resit one or more course units will not be eligible to achieve a Merit or Distinction at Masters level.

14.3.6 Appeals Procedure.

In the event that a student wishes to appeal against a mark, grading or a decision on progression, it is important that the appeal is made to the Director of PG studies in writing (or by e-mail) as soon as possible. A copy of any supporting documentation (not the original) should be supplied. The postgraduate committee undertakes to promptly consider and deal with appeals on the grounds of bias, prejudice or inadequate assessments as set out in the University Regulations. The decision on the appeal will be notified to the student by the supervisor or Director of PG studies. Thereafter, if the student wishes to take the matter further, the supervisor will refer the circumstances to the Director of PG Studies and the Head of School who may deal with the matter within the School or advise the student to contact the Faculty. Details of the Faculty of Science and Engineering appeals procedure can be found at <http://www.se.manchester.ac.uk/>

15 Changes of Circumstance

If you are you are experiencing difficulties and need to make a change to your study please talk this through with your supervisor or adviser and request the appropriate form from the PGR Administrator. Please see the process below in 15.4

You should refer to the University's *Policy on Circumstances Leading to Changes to Postgraduate Research Study* **before** completing any change of circumstance request forms. This policy contains information for students and staff on University policy and procedures concerning the following:

- The standard duration of postgraduate research degrees
- The submission pending period
- Interruption of studies

- Unauthorised absence
- Short-term absence
- Official leave of absence for study leave and fieldwork
- Holiday leave
- Maternity, adoption and paternity leave and pay
- Extension of studies
- Withdrawal from a postgraduate research degree
- Termination of a student registration
- List of exceptional circumstances/list of non-exceptional circumstances that may/may not be acceptable in a student's application for an interruption or extension
- Documentary evidence required to support requests for changes to study

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=8162>

15.1 Mitigating Circumstances

Students may only request an interruption or an extension if their circumstances are considered mitigating by the Faculty of Science and Engineering PG research degrees panel. Each request for an interruption or an extension will be considered on an individual, case by case basis and any decision made will be at the discretion of the University. Students should only report circumstances that are unforeseen and/or unpreventable and that have had a serious adverse affect on their research.

Mitigating Circumstances need to be backed up by evidence, please see 15.1.3

15.1.1 Examples of what may be considered for mitigating Circumstances

The following circumstances are typical of what **may** be considered grounds for applying for an interruption or extension. The circumstances will either prevent the student from working altogether or severely affect his/her ability to work effectively.

- a. Serious physical or mental illness of the student;
- b. Death/serious illness of a partner, close family member or close friend;
- c. Unforeseeable or unpreventable events such as distress or injury caused by a serious accident; the affects of being the victim of a criminal act or the distress or serious disruption caused by fire, flood or other natural catastrophe;
- d. Serious personal problems such as relationship problems, family crises and unexpected changes to the student's source of funding (NB: students must ensure that have the necessary funds before embarking on their degree);
- e. Breakdown of *essential* equipment where a student is unable to continue research and the use of alternative equipment is not possible;
- f. Delays in obtaining ethical approval where approval has been sought in good time;
- g. Jury service;
- h. Maternity or adoption leave;
- i. Delays in progress due to unforeseen problems with the degree programme and/or working environment (eg, moving of offices/buildings, supervisor changes etc) which are outside of the student's control. NB: the problem **must** be reported to the appropriate School or Faculty graduate office at the time it occurs;

j. Study leave necessary for the degree programme (other than official leave of absence for study at an approved institution or fieldwork)

15.1.2 Examples of circumstances that will not be considered as mitigating circumstances

- a. The student or supervisor was unaware of policy and application procedures for interruptions and/or extensions for postgraduate degrees. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to ensure that they are aware of all policies and procedures relevant to their degree;
- b. Further primary research and/or laboratory work;
- c. Temporary lectureships;
- d. Voluntary service overseas;
- e. Expeditions/sport;
- f. Long-term holidays/vacations;
- g. Inadequate planning and time management;
- h. Normal pregnancy (excluding standard maternity leave entitlement);
- i. Difficulties with English language (including delays as a result of proofreading);
- j. Computer or other equipment failure or theft where use of an alternative is possible or any loss of work was avoidable, except where the work is lost through the failure of University of Manchester systems as confirmed by School or Manchester Computing staff;
- k. Change in employment conditions: requests from part-time students who are working while studying may exceptionally be considered where a change in employment conditions was unforeseen. This will not normally be an acceptable reason for students in the submission pending or resubmission periods.
- l. Lack of sufficient funds

15.1.3 Evidence

For all requests which are submitted due to ill health, ***medical evidence must be provided*** to support the case e.g. a note/letter from a doctor/hospital. Requests made on the grounds of ill health which are not supported by evidence cannot be considered by the Faculty PG Research Degrees Panel.

For mitigation circumstances which are submitted due to equipment breakdown/research delays, details of dates and duration must be given. Where possible, dates of meetings describing the problems or evidence from the end of year report giving these events as cause for concern should be included.

15.2 Interruptions

If you feel that you need an interruption to your studies please talk to your supervisor in the first instance.

Any application for an interruption should, wherever possible, be made ***before the beginning of the proposed period*** of interruption. Requests for retrospective interruptions can only be considered in the most exceptional circumstances.

Students will not normally be permitted to interrupt during a period of extension or the submission pending period.

Requests for an interruption in order to undertake an internship may be made but it should be noted that the final submission deadline date normally will not be extended (students would be expected to submit their thesis/dissertation by the original deadline date).

Students on a Tier 4 visa – The University has to report to the UKVI any significant changes in the circumstances of study for international students to whom it has issued a Confirmation of Acceptance for Study (CAS). Further information can be found at <http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/immigration-and-visas/during-your-studies/changes/> or via the Student Immigration Team (visa@manchester.ac.uk)

15.3 Extensions

15.3.1 Extension of Study

- Requests for an extension of study must be submitted ***at least two months before*** the end date.
- Only delays/issues/problems which occur in the final year of study can be considered. If a student has successfully progressed to the next year of the programme, any retrospective issues cannot be taken into consideration unless these issues and their effects on progression have been clearly noted in the end of year progression form on eProg.
- In some cases (for students who started their current PGR programme before 1 September 2012), the Faculty PG Research Degrees Panel may reject an extension request but grant permission to submit late instead.

15.3.2 Extension of Submission Pending

- Requests for an extension of submission pending period must be submitted ***at least two months before*** the final deadline for submission.
- Only issues/problems which occur during the submission pending period can be considered by the Faculty PG Research Degrees Panel (delays/problems which occurred during the period of study cannot be taken in consideration).
- In some cases (for students who started their current PGR programme before 1 September 2012), the Faculty PG Research Degrees Panel may reject an extension of submission pending period request but grant permission to submit late instead.

15.4 Completing Changes of Circumstances Forms

Once a student has read the Changes of Circumstance policy and is aware of the impact the change will have on them financially and in terms of their commitments to sponsors they should request an appropriate form from the PGR Administrator.

The student and supervisor should complete the form, attach any evidence and send it back to the PGR Administrator. The form will then be sent to the PG Director for signing.

Once all parties have signed the form it will be sent off to Graduate Education Office who will take it to the Faculty PG Research Degrees Panel. The panel normally meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

15.5 Withdrawal

Students are permitted to withdraw from their degree at any time and for any reason, but are reminded that any tuition fees or outstanding charges must be paid. Students are advised to carefully consider any decision to withdraw and should first discuss the matter with their supervisor, advisor or other appropriate member of their supervisory team.

Students who decide to withdraw must inform the appropriate School or Faculty graduate office in writing and state their reasons for withdrawal and their last date of attendance. Either the graduate office or the Student Services Centre will then write to the student to confirm the date of withdrawal.

Tuition fees are charged on a daily basis up to and including the last date of attendance on the degree. If a refund is required, it must be requested in writing to the Student Services Centre. Refunds will not be made unless the School/Faculty have issued an official last date of attendance. Refer to the tuition fees section of the University's Crucial Guide for further information at <http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/crucial-guide/financial-life/tuitionfees/refunds/>.

On withdrawing from the degree, registration is terminated and the student is no longer a student of the University. International students on a student visa should note that they are in breach of student visa regulations if they stay in the UK and are not registered as a student and that the University is legally required to report the withdrawal and termination of study to the government.

Students who are considering withdrawing from study due to difficult personal circumstances or academic reasons are advised to consider interrupting and should speak with their supervisor, advisor or other appropriate member of their supervisory team as well as Student Support team and the Director of PG Education.

15.5.1 Exit Interviews

Any PGR student who withdraws during the course of their programme will be invited to attend an Exit Interview with the Director of PG Education

16 Resources

For enquiries about the resources you have access to please contact the Research Group Administrator who is allocated to your Research Group.

16.1 Postgraduate research student offices

All postgraduate research students in the School are allocated a desk in a shared office. You will receive your key for your office when you start from Andy Smith in the Design Office on the ground floor if you are based in the Schuster Building. At the end of your programme you will need to remove your personal belongings from your office and return your key to Andy Smith. You are responsible for keeping your office tidy.

Bins are not provided in any offices in the School. You should use the recycling stations located throughout the building.

16.2 Laboratory Access

Laboratory access is via your university card please contact Simon.Abbott@manchester.ac.uk if you have a problem with your access. If part of your research is laboratory based you must complete the Health and Safety Laboratory Induction. Failure to complete the training may result in you have your access to the laboratory removed.

16.3 Access to the buildings

The Schuster and Alan Turing Buildings are normally open from 8:30am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday, except when the University is closed.

Postgraduate research students can access the building outside working hours using their University card. If your card is not working then please contact the Simon Abbott simon.abbott@manchester.ac.uk

Research students who are working very late or at weekends are advised to notify the Security Office

Alan Turing ext. 52728

Schuster 69966

Out-of-hours access is a privilege and not a right. You must not allow people who are not registered research students in Physics and Astronomy access to the building. You must use any facilities in the building responsibly. If out-of-hours access is found to be abused then it will be withdrawn.

The vicinity of the buildings should not be considered completely safe at night, particularly for unaccompanied women.

In accordance with University policy, smoking is prohibited throughout the buildings, within any door entrance or access ramp.

16.4 Computing facilities

All postgraduate research students in the School have access to an individual PC in their office.

You will receive an email from the University IT Services with your University email address and log-in details prior to your registration.

If you are using your own device then you can connect to the internet via WiFi. There are two WiFi networks available across the University campus: the University of Manchester network and Eduroam. It is recommended that you use the Eduroam network. You can register for Eduroam here: <http://www.itservices.manchester.ac.uk/wireless/eduroam>.

IT Services provides most of the campus IT services for staff and students of the University of Manchester. For more information please see <http://www.itservices.manchester.ac.uk/>.

16.5 Email

You should quickly become familiar with the electronic mail (email) system because all important information is sent in this way. It will be assumed that you read emails sent to your university email address regularly.

16.6 My.Manchester.ac.uk

The majority of electronic resources available within the University can be found by logging in to <http://my.manchester.ac.uk> with your University username.

You can also access Blackboard – the University's eLearning environment – from My.Manchester. Various learning materials are provided via Blackboard.

16.7 Printing and photocopying

Postgraduate research students may use School printers for work and research purposes. Please note that use of printing facilities is monitored by the School. Excessive use of printing, or printing of non-academic materials, will result in you being charged for the costs and possibly banned from using the School's printers.

16.8 Telephone calls

Telephones in postgraduate research student offices are for internal calls only.

16.7 PGR Common rooms

Research students and academic staff are responsible for keeping the kitchens in their research area and the Alan Turing common room clean and tidy. If you use any cutlery you should either wash it or place it in the dishwasher. You should wipe down surfaces in the kitchen if you have spilled anything. If you use the microwave then you should make sure that it is clean inside after use. Small items of food can be left in the fridges during the day provided that your name is clearly marked on them. You should keep the fridges clean.

Schuster Building

Postgraduate Research Students in the Schuster Building have a kitchen area on each of the Research Group floors please see your Research Group Administrators regarding arrangements for milk etc.

Alan Turing

Postgraduate research students can use the Atrium Bridge Common Room and kitchen on the 1st floor of the Alan Turing Building.

Coffee is available (free of charge) from 10:30am. The postgraduate students organise a rota to make coffee each morning. Milk is delivered to the School each day and is only to be used for tea and coffee.

17 Graduate Training

The FSE Researcher Development programme is flexible and optional allowing you to attend at convenient times and tailor your training according to the current stage of your degree or career.

We deliver the programme through workshops, online resources and one-to-one support.

The Researcher Development programme is based around seven core themes:

- **Career management** - Plan short and long term goals, and work out the next step
- **Communicating research** - Express your science clearly in presentations, publications and posters.
- **Enterprise & commercialisation** - Start a business or commercialise your research
- **Professional effectiveness** - Work effectively in teams, build relationships and manage resources
- **Public engagement** - Engage the public or other communities with your research.
- **Teaching & learning** - Get some teaching experience
- **Well-being** - Build well-being and resilience to thrive in a competitive environment

We aim to:

- Equip you with the skills you need to complete your research degree;
- Give you access to experiences that will develop you as a person, a researcher and a professional;
- Provide you with opportunities to meet with, socialise, collaborate and network with other researchers at The University.

You'll end up gaining much more than a thesis!

Who are we?

- Dr Jim Boran (Researcher Development Manager)
- Dee-Ann Johnson (Researcher Development Officer)
- Dr Gemma Muckle (Researcher Development Officer)
- Alys Kay (Online Development Officer)
- Dr Alex Hinchliffe (Researcher Development Administrator)

Where to reach us:

WEBSITE <http://www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk/>

EMAIL fse-grads@manchester.ac.uk

TWITTER <http://twitter.com/fsegrads/>

FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/FSEResDev/>

18 ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID)

An ORCID is a unique identifier which allows you to distinguish yourself from other researchers throughout your career. They are free to create and enable authoritative links to be created between you and your research activities (e.g. research outputs, funding data, employment history).

When you create a new ORCID account there are two key components:

- A definitive record of your research activities which is available to other systems via the open ORCID registry;
- A personal profile page which is available via a unique URL

Registering for an ORCID takes 30 seconds on [the ORCID website](#). To maximise the benefit of your ORCID it's important to keep your account up to date with your latest research outputs.

The University is encouraging all staff and postgraduate research students to ensure that they have claimed an ORCID. To support this, the Library has joined ORCID as a member organisation and created a dedicated team to help staff create and maintain their accounts with minimal input.

For further information you can contact a member of the support team at uml.scholarlycommunication@manchester.ac.uk or on 0161 306 1517.

19. The University Language Centre.

The University Language Centre provides courses and language learning resources for students from a wide variety of disciplines wishing to include a modern languages element within their

studies. It also offers a wide range of courses and services for international students for whom English is not a first language.

Foreign language courses - Offered as part of the University Language Centre's institution-wide language programme (LEAP), these courses are available to students from across the University and may be studied on a credit or on a non-credit basis to complement your degree. Currently there are 18 languages, ranging from the main international languages (e.g. *French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, German*) to a number of less commonly taught languages (e.g. *Japanese, Hindi, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, Greek*), offered at various levels. For more information on the full range of languages and levels that are available, please consult the University Language Centre website via the link given below.

English Language Programmes - If English is not your native language, you may wish to enquire about the wide range of credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing English courses available through the University Language Centre. International students who would like advice on how they can improve their academic writing are encouraged to make use of the one-to-one writing consultation service. Please refer to the Academic Support Programmes section of the ULC webpage via the link given below.

Face to Face - This is a reciprocal language learning scheme, in which students can meet with native speakers of the language they are learning. International students find that this is a good way to meet home students and to become more integrated into the University. Home students can prepare themselves for study abroad by finding out about their partners' home universities and cultures. For more information, please enquire at the ULC reception.

Tandem Programme - This programme is similar to Face to Face, but is more formal and provides credits which count towards your University degree. It is fully monitored, assessed and supported via practical workshops. For more information please refer to the Foreign Languages section via the link given below.

Open Learning Facilities - The University Language Centre's open learning facilities, situated in the Samuel Alexander Building, offer:

- A well stocked library of materials in text, audio, video, DVD and CD-ROM formats.
- Materials in some 60 languages.

- A suite of TV/VCR presenters fed by a range of satellite and terrestrial channels.
- A suite of dedicated multimedia PCs for computer aided language learning.
- Support and advice for learners from expert staff and through on-line resources.

A full guide to the University Language Centre's courses, services and its language learning resources is available at: <http://www.ulc.manchester.ac.uk>