

Exam Report

Module Code/Title: PHYS6009 Dissertation

Module Leader: Malgosia Kaczmarek

Feedback comments:

This is the second year Dissertation is run in the new format, which incorporates group work in the first part of the semester, followed by an individual dissertation. The course was reviewed last spring and some, mostly minor, amendments were introduced. There is one, more substantial change – the topic of group work now determines the choice of individual topics. The individual topics are more specialised threads of the more general, group work topic. This change was introduced following suggestions from the students, but also supported by the colleagues involved in this module. This makes the course a bit easier and also helps to use the group work stage to build the background for the individual stage of work.

Marking: the assessment criteria were the same as last year, but more precise guidelines for awarding different grades were issued to the markers. These and all the marksheets were available to the students. Marking: average if for each marking category the two markers agree within 10%, if the difference beyond 10% - markers had to discuss and agree the final set of marks and comments. Two markers mark independently; first marker provided the marks and the comments; second marker – just the marks and then endorsing the final version of the comments; all moderated by the coordinator.

Statistics: average went slightly down to 68.4%, down from 71.2 in 2012-13 and 70.9% in 2011-12. The 2011-12 average attracted a comment from our external two years ago, that the average mark for this course was a bit on the high side). Individual report: avg. 66%, group summary 69.6%, group presentation 72.3%. Overall: 40% of students got First, 57% got 2:1