

International Centre for Fundamental Physics Master's program (First year)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Master 1 track's Academic Directors: Sylvain NASCIMBENE (École normale supérieure - PSL)

Programme type: Initial training

Main teaching language: English

The academic year is divided into two semesters:

- course activities during the first semester (30 ECTS) for both Year 1
- second semester dedicated to an internship in France or abroad (30 ECTS), for Year 1

The first year of study provides a general introduction to fundamental physics, particularly in statistical physics, quantum mechanics, and relativity.

ADMISSIONS

Prerequisites (M1): the International Centre for Fundamental Physics welcomes applications from highly qualified French and international students with a solid background in physics and mathematics who hold a Bachelor's degree or an equivalent academic qualification. Good working ability in English is required. There is no formal French language requirement.

Recrutement Process: Application file and interview

GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE MASTER 1

The first year offers a wealth of lectures covering a wide range of topics in modern physics, including fundamental interactions, biophysics, quantum mechanics, and condensed matter physics, among others. Students have the flexibility to choose their lectures from the ICFP course list based on their individual interests, accumulating a total of 30 ECTS credits during the first semester. Additionally, the program administration allows students to take a course outside the master's curriculum for up to 9 ECTS credits, after approval by the academic director.

The second semester is dedicated to a 6-month research internship in France (for international student) or abroad (for French student), in any field of physics or its interfaces

EXAMS AND VALIDATION

Evaluation criteria and procedures are detailed at the latest, on the first day of classes. Exams are scheduled in accordance with the calendar set by the Master administration, and students will be notified by e-mail.

The ICFP master's program operates under the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

→ Information about the rules for passing your semester/year:

The semester is automatically validated if all grades are equal to or exceed 10 out of 20. The semester can be granted by compensation, meaning that a student who does not validate all their courses with a minimum grade of 10/20 can still pass the semester if he/she obtains an overall semester average equal to or more than 10/20.

Each of the two semesters must be passed independently.

There is no eliminatory final grade.

→ Re-sit Exams

Students who do not pass a course have the opportunity to retake their exams. Each examiner will contact any student who has not achieved the required passing mark.

The re-sit exam is scheduled at the end of each semester and may be organized in conditions different from the initial exams.

→ Absence from exams

If a student is unable to attend an exam, they must provide a valid reason and supporting documentation for the absence to be considered justified.

→ For health-related absences, a signed and dated medical certificate from a doctor must be submitted to enseignement@phys.ens.fr no later than one week after the exam date. The certificate should clearly indicate that you were ill on the day of the exam.

→ For other reasons such as the death of a relative, a funeral, or other force majeure circumstances, appropriate documentation must also be submitted to enseignement@phys.ens.fr within one week of the exam date.

With proper documentation, you will be permitted to retake the missed exam at your earliest convenience before the first semester jury.

If you fail to provide the necessary documentation for your absence, you will be required to take the second session examination, which is scheduled after the first semester jury. Consequently, your semester will not be validated during the first session exam board, and your final transcript will indicate that you passed the exam during the second session. examination due to an unjustified absence at the first session.