

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

ACADEMIC RULES

The master's degree in Fundamental Physics is jointly organized with the following partner universities and institutions:

Ecole Normale Supérieure - Paris Sciences & Lettres;
Université Paris Cité;
Université de Paris-Saclay;
Sorbonne Université;
Institut Polytechnique de Paris

I. ORGANIZATION

The second year of the ICFP master's program is organized around four different programs:

Condensed Matter Physics;
Soft Matter and biological;
Quantum Physics;
Theoretical Physics.

The first semester is dedicated to courses (30 ECTS). Each student enrolls in a program in which he/she follows compulsory and optional courses. In exceptional cases, the student can include in his/her program one optional course from another area of study, in agreement with his/her head of studies.

In second semester, four optional courses will be chosen from his/her program (4x3 ECTS). Students are expected to complete an internship relevant to their course of study (18 ECTS) April to June, in France or abroad.

The language of instruction is English. All teaching, exercise and practical material are provided in English.

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Academic study imposes the following duties:

- administrative registration
- course registration
- teaching evaluations

1. Administrative registration

The administrative registration is annual (in accordance with national provision).

All students are required to register during the registration period. The registration is organized as follows: Students from Sorbonne Université, Université Paris Cité, Université Paris-Saclay and l'institut Polytechnique de Paris who have been admitted in the Master's program are required to register at their home university.

Students who have been awarded a scholarship by the ENS-ICFP are required to register at ENS.

Other students are required to register in one of the following institutions: ENS, Sorbonne Université, Université Paris Cité, Université Paris-Saclay. The assignment of students is determined by the Master's administration.

A student whose administrative registration has not been completed cannot, under any circumstances, receive credit for that academic year.

Registration is only considered complete once the student has paid the required tuition fees.

2. Pedagogical registration

Students will be contacted each semester to finalize their course selections.

A student whose administrative registration has not been completed may be blocked from course registration.

3. Course evaluation

Students are required to complete a questionnaire on the quality of their courses each semester.

III. EXAMS AND VALIDATION

Evaluation criteria and procedures are communicated no later than the first day of classes and are described on the program's website.

Exams are scheduled in accordance with the calendar set by the Master's administration, and students will be notified by email. Unless otherwise stated, the use of any documents or electronic devices is prohibited during exams and in-class tests.

1. Course credit

The ICFP master uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). A semester-long course is worth at least 30 ECTS credits and a yearlong course counts for 60.

2. Semesters validation

Credits are successfully completed and accredited when the student obtains a final grade of 10 out of 20 or higher.

A semester is automatically validated if all the module grades are equal to or more than 10 out of 20.

The two semesters must be passed independently.

Pass by compensation:

Module grades may compensate one another within the same semester. A student will validate a semester if their average grade after applying all relevant coefficients is 10 or more (out of 20).

The student will then obtain the number of units for the semester (each validated semester = 30 ECTS).

There is no eliminatory final grade.

3. Re-sit Exams (second chance exam)

Students who have not validated a course at the end of the semester may retake their exams.

Each examiner contacts the student who has failed to attain the pass mark.

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

The grade obtained on a re-sit exam is counted as the final grade for the course and cannot be higher than 10/20.

4. Absence from exams

If you are unable to attend an exam, in order for the absence to be justified, you must provide a reason and documentation.

→ For health reasons, a certificat with a statement from a doctor must be sent to enseignement@phys.ens.fr and your path directors at the latest one week later the date of the exam.

The documentation must be signed and dated. It must be mention that you were ill on the day of the exam.

→ For any other reason (death of a relative, funeral or force majeure), proof must also be provided to enseignement@phys.ens.fr and your path directors at the latest one week later the date of the exam.

With evidence, you will be allowed to retake the un-taken exam at your early convenience before the first semester jury. The mark will not be limited to 10.

If you do not provide documentation of absence, you will have to attend the second session examination organised after the first semester jury. There is no maximum grade of 10 out of 20 in this case. As a result, your semester will not be validated at the first session exam board and in the final transcript it will be stated that you passed the exam at the second session examination due to an unjustified absence at the first session.

5. Request a recheck of your copy

If a student believes there may have been an error in the mark he/she has received in an exam, he/she can request a copy of his/her exam. This student has to inform the director of his or her program and check his or her copy in presence of the examiner.

IV. EXAMINATION BOARD AND HONOURS

The end of the year jury (degree jury) decides for each student, on the basis of his or her academic performance, if a student has satisfied the conditions necessary to pass or if a student must repeat a year.

A student will validate his/her academic year if they fully meet all criteria below:

- Their general annual average grade is more than 10 out of 20 (average grades from semesters 1 and 2 can't compensate one another);
- their administrative registration is finalized.

The decision of the Examination Board is final.

The diploma is issued by the university of registration.

The distinction of the Master's degree is based on the average obtained in the second year of the Master's program.

Award classification:

The ICFP Master follows the traditional French marking system and is based on a numbered scale from 0 to 20 with 10 being the minimum passing mark. Numeric grades correspond to the following qualitative grade scheme

Grades	Honours
18 – 20	Excellent
16 – 17.99	Very good
14 – 15.99	Good
12 – 13.99	Quite good
10 – 11.99	Fair
00 – 09.99	Fail

Typical class average lies between 12 and 14/20.
There is no ranking between students.

V. MANDATORY INTERNSHIP

Students complete a full-time research internship of at least three-month duration from April to June.

The internship is an academic requirement for which students receive 18 ECTS credits.

All internships have to be the subject of the signature of an Internship agreement between the educational institution, the host organization and the intern before the beginning of the internship. The internship agreement specifies the terms and conditions of the internship and to ensure the protection of the intern. Student must use the internship form offered by his or her university.

The internship should be concluded by a written report and an oral presentation organized by each program.

All internship offers are available by using this link: <https://stagescfp.phys.ens.fr>

VI. RESEARCH SEMINAR WEEK

Each academic year, a week is dedicated to visits of the ICFP partner institutions: the University PSL and its various institutions (ENS, ESPCI, Collège de France, Institut Curie, ...), Sorbonne Université, l'université de Paris Saclay and l'institut Polytechnique de Paris, Université Paris Cité. It is a unique opportunity for students to meet researchers from various institutions and a broad range of fields. During the visits, researchers present PhD and Internship subjects available at their university.