

# Department of Physics

## Postgraduate Research Handout 2017/18

### 1. Welcome to the Department

#### 1.1 Department of Physics

Welcome to the Department of Physics at the University of Bath. This booklet is intended to introduce new postgraduates to the Department and to life as a research student. There are many differences between undergraduate and postgraduate life and we hope that the information contained in the following pages will provide a useful guide in your route to a higher degree.

We have tried to ensure that the information contained within this document is correct, but please note that the document has no official status and is in no way intended to take the place of official papers issued from time to time by the University.

### 2. Department Structure

The Physics Department is led by the Head of Department, Professor Simon Bending. The Head of Department directs all aspects of the Department, operating through a number of nominated role-holders and through the deliberations of a number of committees. The following sections introduce some of these roles and committees.

#### 2.1. Who's Who in the Department

See <http://www.bath.ac.uk/physics/contacts/> for a full list of Department staff. Some contacts most relevant to PG students are:

Head of Department	Professor Simon Bending
Director for Postgraduate Studies	Dr Sergey Gordeev
Department Coordinator	Joanna Lucyszyn
Safety Coordinator	Dr Ashley Brewer
Technical Manager	Alan George
Library representative	Dr Sergey Gordeev
PG Staff-Student Liaison Committee	Dr Sergey Gordeev

The Departmental Office is in 3W 3.1. It is generally open during normal office hours every weekday.

Office telephone number:	(01225) 383673
Fax number:	(01225) 386110
Address:	The Department of Physics University of Bath BATH BA2 7AY

## 2.2 Research Areas in the Department

The Department of Physics has a thriving research programme, with a research community of 35 academic staff and over 82 postdoctoral researchers, PhD students and research visitors, drawn from the UK and overseas. Our research has a high international profile, in keeping with the University's position as a leading research institution in the United Kingdom. The quality of our research and our research environment was recognised by the 2014 Research Excellence Framework: 91% of our physics research was rated as either **world-leading** or **internationally excellent**, placing our Department of Physics 13th amongst all UK departments for its research activities.

The real-world impact of our research – that is its influence on the economy, society, quality of life etc. - was judged to be particularly strong with 100% being **world-leading** or **internationally excellent**. Indeed we rank fourth amongst all UK physics departments for the impact of our research.

Our research covers a wide spectrum of activities, from fundamental physics to technological applications. Our activities are organised into four Research Groups and University Research Centres:

- Centre for Photonics and Photonic Materials
- Nanoscience Group
- Condensed Matter Theory Group
- Centre for Space, Atmospheric and Oceanic Science
- Centre for Networks and Collective Behaviour
- Astrophysics Group

## 2.3 Physics Postgraduate Conference

In the past the Department has organised a Postgraduate Seminar series in the summer, for presentations by PGR students to their peers, and a Postgraduate Poster Evening in the winter, where 3<sup>rd</sup> year students show off their work. Following an open meeting in January last year it was decided that we would instead move towards a Physics PGR conference, with a mixture of poster and oral presentations. More details will be given later.

The [Institute of Physics \(IOP\)](#) is the national professional organisation for physicists and postgraduate are encouraged to join. Membership is free for students funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

The [Students' Physics Society](#), which is supported in part by the IOP, welcomes postgraduate members. Details of meetings are posted in the Physics Square. Recently PGR students have founded a **PG society** with events aimed more specifically at our cohort of research students. Join in!

## 3. Health and Safety

*Please note that the summary given below is for guidance: you should familiarise yourself with the University statement of Safety Policy and the local regulations given in the Departmental Safety Manual.*

### 3.1 Safety Policy

## Responsibilities

### Summary of Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974

- (i) Each employee of the University and each student working in the University has responsibility to take care of his or her own safety and the safety of others.
- (ii) By good example and training, staff and students should be encouraged to adopt high safety standards in their work as a routine.
- (iii) The University is to ensure so far as is reasonably practical the safety of its employees and other people working in or visiting the University.
- (iv) The Act places the duty on all persons that they shall not intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse anything provided for health and safety.

## Regulations

1. All laboratory work must be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act and follow the local codes of practice. Details of any special hazards will have been given in the risk assessment for your project (and in some cases your work areas). Your project risk assessment will normally have been made by your supervisor. It should be discussed with your supervisor and signed before any work is carried out. Some specialized work (e.g. with lasers or chemicals) requires prior training as detailed in the department safety manual.
2. Eating and drinking are not permitted in laboratories.
3. Postgraduates may work in laboratories outside normal working hours but should inform their supervisor. Hazardous activities such as working with chemicals should not normally be carried out outside normal working hours and should not be performed whilst alone under any circumstances.
4. Report all injuries, however minor, to Dr Ashley Brewer and fill in an accident report form.
5. No Smoking

## 3.2 Safety Contacts

Any accident resulting in personal injury requires an accident report form to be completed and returned to the Department Safety Coordinator (Dr Ashley Brewer). Other incidents, near misses, dangerous occurrences, serious property damage, or hazards likely to endanger people should be reported using the same form. The Department Safety Coordinator will initiate an investigation following an accident or incident, and will report to the Head of Department and the University Safety, Health and Environment Unit as appropriate.