Senior Honours Projects

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SH Project Information:
https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/SP/SH+Projects

e.g. SH Project Guide, plus copy of these slides
SH Project Meetings

Today
- Introduction to SH projects
- Starting work on your project

Workshops:
- Preparing your project report and poster
  - Wednesday of 2nd week of project
    - Semester 1: October 2nd 14.10-16.00 (JCMB LTC)
    - Semester 2: January 22nd 14.10-16.00 (JCMB LTC)

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What is a Senior Honours Project?

- A 10-week supervised research project
- Put into practice what you have learned in your courses to date
- Give you a feel for what physics research is like

Most students find them very rewarding

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When do SH Projects run?

- Either semester
  - Semester 1: Week 2 – Week 11
  - Semester 2: Week 1 – Week 10 (excl. FLW)

- Nominally 10.00-17.00 Mon & Thu
  - Lab access outwith those hours *may* be possible, depending on supervisor & experiment
    - No lab working in JCMB outside 09.00-17.00 Mon-Fri
    - May need a safety form: see Safety Briefing on wiki
  - 20 credit course ➔ 200 hours of work

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SH Project Assessment

- Three components to assessment
  - Project Performance: 35% - Supervisor
  - Project Report: 55% - Supervisor & Second Marker
  - Poster: 10% - Supervisor & Second Marker

- Grade Descriptors available on wiki

- Strict submission deadlines
  - Semester 1: Friday, November 29th
  - Semester 2: Friday March 27th

- More details of all this in the SH Project Workshops

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Project Allocations

- Automated system started two years ago
  - Preferences recorded via the Sign-Up Tool
  - Deadline passed at noon today
  - Algorithm will assign projects based on preferences

- Allocations for S1 will be circulated by Friday
  - Allocations for S2 will follow soon thereafter

- Not everyone will get their first choice project
  - We hope everyone gets a project that interests them

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Semester 2 project popularities *last year*

Top 1: 46%
Top 3: 76%
Top 5: 90%

= no. of students selecting project / no. of students who can take project in S2
Starting your project

- Get the details of the project clear
  - Keep asking your supervisor until you understand
  - Draw up a rough schedule up to submission

- Arrange a regular meeting time with supervisor
  - Once a week – maybe more, depending on project

- Start writing notes as you go along
  - Crucial to helping you do your project properly
    - Details of all you did, copies of the plots you generate, etc
  - Will be submitted along with your lab report

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Contemporaneous note-taking

- One of the key skills exercised by the SHP
- We used to require notes in “a lab book”, but have relaxed requirement on medium
- Agree with your supervisor what medium to use
  - Must allow submission: hardcopy or PDF
  - Key aspect is still writing the notes as you go along

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Next Steps

- Await news of your project allocation
- Read the information on the Wiki
  - Especially the Project Guide
  - Any questions? – ask myself or Steph
- Attend the workshops in Semester 1 or 2
  - Come armed with questions
- Enjoy your project!

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