**Introduction to BSc projects**

The aim of the BSc Project is to give students training in undertaking a major research-type project which can be in any area of physics, either theoretical or experimental. The project should normally be completed in the first semester, although in unusual circumstances, it may be finished in the second semester. Students normally work in pairs, with the guidance of a member of staff. By undertaking a project students should develop skills, which are necessary for experimental or theoretical research (such as initiative, decision making, determining priorities, searching and learning relevant material from literature, ability to collaborate and to report results).

**Aims and learning outcomes**

After studying this course students should:

·      be able to present their work in a written report in the style of a research thesis,

·      be able to give a short account of their work intelligible to the general reader,

·      be able to use the appropriate scientific literature databases for the field of their project (ISI Web of Science, Scopus, HEP-SPIRES or NASA ADSABS)

·      have further developed their general skills such as planning, observation, record keeping, processing and interpreting results, as well as working on open-ended problems

·      have learned the benefits of good time management or conversely the folly of leaving everything to the last minute,

·       have experienced some of the challenges and frustrations of scientific research.

Projects may run in any area of physics and may be experimental, computational or theoretical.

**Summary of teaching and learning methods**

Students submit their preferences and an allocation is made after the September Exam Board (end of September). Students with their own ideas about projects they might like to do are encouraged to contact the course coordinator with appropriate research interests as early as possible.  While, for a variety of reasons, it may not be possible to offer some of these projects, a genuine effort will be made to find an appropriate supervisor for any student taking this level of initiative.

Students should have a clear understanding from their supervisor of what they are expected to achieve in the project. In case that the project did not start properly or the aims of the project are not clear, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the supervisor. In case that the problem remains then the student should contact the co-ordinator of the course (Prof. Antonios Kanaras).

Near the end of the project (November/December), students must write a Final Report and a project summary. The purpose of the report is to convey an account of the work to an interested third party. The deadline for submission is early January.  The examiners will be assigned before the end of term, and appointments for the examinations should be made before Christmas break.

Students will be assessed independently from their partners. Copying your partner's final report is absolutely prohibited.