

**Year 3 students currently abroad choosing Fourth Year electives  
NOTES ON THE COMPLETION OF ELECTIVES APP**

- MSci Year Abroad students currently abroad can select their electives for Year 4 via the Physics Elective App. You will have access to this towards the end of May – you will receive a link to the app via email. Additional information regarding electives is [online](#). See [Programme Specifications](#) for more detail on degree structure.
- **Core courses in Year 4:** Nuclear & Particle Physics (5 ECTS), Solid State Physics (5 ECTS), and Comprehensives module (total 15 ECTS) are core. You should review the lecture notes, problem sheets, and past exam questions for the version of the course taught in our Department to make sure that you have covered 100% of the material for the Comprehensive Exams. In preparation for the Comprehensives, you will attend third year tutorials during Year 4.
- Exceptionally, for Nuclear and Particle Physics and Solid State Physics, where an equivalent module is available in your year abroad that meets the same learning outcomes of one (or both) of these modules, you may be permitted to take that module (or these modules) instead. Permission to drop either of these can only be granted by YA Academic Co-ordinator (Prof Marina Galand). There are a large number of electives available. FHEQ 6 and 7 electives have 5 or 7.5 ECTS. Some modules are popular and have a numbers cap. There is a waiting list for electives that are full.
- The level (e.g. 7) of the module refers to the year (e.g. 4) in which it is normally taken but there is some flexibility. The key requirement for the MSci Year Abroad is that in Year 4 you take **at least 25 ECTS** at FHEQ Level 7 in total.
- The theoretical modules are more mathematically demanding than the standard options. You should consider your previous examination performances (especially in core mathematics) before choosing these. If you choose more than we think well-advised we will recommend that you reconsider your elective programme.
- Third Year Laboratory (7.5 ECTS) is **compulsory** for most MSci YA students. However, students proposing to take at least 20 ECTS of theory electives may replace lab with one further elective module at either FHEQ Level 6 or 7. You need permission from the YA Academic Co-ordinator (Prof Marina Galand) to drop lab. This should be requested at the start of Term 1 in Year 4.
- Look at the [module overview document](#). You should take account how modules fit together when choosing your combination of options. It is **your responsibility** to study any missed background material in your own time. A list of specific prerequisite material for each module is stated in the module specifications. It may also be the case that you have covered the necessary material in your courses abroad.
- You may select one of the Humanities (5 or 7.5 ECTS) or Business School (5 ECTS) options. **You must register online for your [Humanities](#) or [Business School](#) modules.** Some modules have a cap on the number of students who can take them. Humanities and the Business School both have separate registration processes, often with different deadlines. If you wish to take in Year 4 the language you used abroad, it must be at least two levels above the one taken in Year 2 – warning: there are no FHEQ 7 languages. Therefore, to take a language in Year 4 you will need to take a NPP or SSP equivalent in Year 3.

**How to make your choice**

- *When making your choices, consider your own performance on the course so far.*  
What are you good at?      What have you enjoyed?      What are your career plans after graduation?
- *Consider the balance of your workload over the year.*  
Physics options are given at the rate of two or three lectures per week during either the first or second term.  
Computational Physics is assessed by written assignments during Term 1 and a written test early in Term 2.  
Horizons options run throughout Terms 1 and 2 and contain elements of assessed course work.  
Business options occupy either two hours per week in either Term 1 or Term 2 or one hour a week through both, also with elements of assessed coursework.  
The theoretical options are supported by informal "Rapid Feedback" sessions & marking of problem sheets.
- Aim to have a roughly balanced load across both terms.

**Some Final General Points...**

**If the Department considers your option choice ill-advised we will recommend another selection of electives.  
In the unlikely event of a course being severely under-subscribed, we reserve the right to withdraw it.  
You may wish to revise your elective choices once you have received your third-year results.**