2016-2017 Graduate Orientation
Physics and Astronomy

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Physics and Astronomy
Physics and Astronomy at York University

- 24 M.Sc. students
- 24 Ph.D. students
- 54 graduate faculty
- Hear more about our research: Two-Minute PHAS Prof Parade (late Sept/early Oct)
PHAS Orientation Resources

- Physics and Astronomy (PHAS) Website
  - http://www.physics.yorku.ca/index.php/graduate
- PHAS Graduate Handbook (updated version available on website soon)
- Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Website
  - http://www.yorku.ca/grads/
- Marlene Caplan!
  - 416-736-5249; x20604; PSE 125
  - For forms, financial issues, TA payments, desks, etc.
- Me (Tom Kirchner)
  - x33695, PSE 228
  - Signatures, M.Sc. coursework advising, petitions, other issues (e.g., relationship with supervisor, TA course director, …)
• Review the York University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities: [http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/studentconduct.html](http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/studentconduct.html)

• Review the York University Academic Honesty Policy: [http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/regulations/academic-honesty/](http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/regulations/academic-honesty/) and do the tutorial !!!

• Research is important but courses should not be neglected
  – Students failing to maintain Academic Standing will be withdrawn from the program
  – Course grades are used for GPA calculation in scholarship applications
  – M.Sc. students wishing to pursue a Ph.D. at York University need to maintain a B+ average (PHAS admission requirement)

• Get to know your course professors. You might want a reference letter from them one day!
Your Research Evaluation must be completed by April 30 (NO EXTENSIONS)

Your first Research Evaluation is like a thesis proposal
- Choose a topic (together with your supervisor)
- Do a literature search
- Think about how the project can be done and what impact it will have on the scientific community (i.e. why is it interesting?)
- In mid-March, contact your Supervisory Committee members to choose an acceptable date/time for the Research Evaluation
- One week prior to the Evaluation, provide to your Supervisory Committee a hard copy of your written report
Financial Advice for a Productive Year

→ Marlene Caplan
TA Advice for a Productive Year

→ Paul Delaney
Health & Safety Orientation
online at https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/course/view.php?id=36422
(you only need to complete the first module: Health & Safety Orientation for Faculty & Staff)

WHMIS I
online at https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/course/view.php?id=36422

Electrical Safety Awareness
online at https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/course/view.php?id=66126

Laser Safety  (in-class on Sept 7th at 9:00AM-12:00PM)
If you are eligible, apply for scholarships!

- Even if your supervisor is already paying you a research assistantship, scholarships make your CV more impressive, increase your chances of getting future scholarships and make you more attractive as a potential employee down the road.
- Attend the PHAS Scholarship Application Workshop (TBD, stay tuned)
  - NSERC, OGS, QEII (application deadline is Oct 13 for PhD, Dec 1 for MSc)
  - Susan Mann and Provost Dissertation (for final Ph.D. year)
  - …
Personal Advice for a Productive Year

• Schedule time for
  – Research
  – Coursework
  – Teaching Assistant duties
  – Life outside Grad School, i.e. try to find a work-life balance!

• Enjoy the ride!

Good luck and have a great year!