2017-2018 Graduate Orientation
Physics and Astronomy

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Physics and Astronomy
Physics and Astronomy at York University

- 20 M.Sc. students
- 24 Ph.D. students
- 50+ 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, …)
Some Advice for a Productive Year
• Review the York University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities: http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/studentconduct.html

• Review the York University Academic Honesty Policy http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/regulations/academic-honesty/ and the academic integrity module on SPARK (Moodle)

• 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  – Students failing to maintain Academic Standing will be withdrawn from the program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
• 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
Mandatory TA Safety Orientation

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 8th at 10:00AM-12:00PM)
(see recent memo for details)
• 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 deadlines: **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!