Credit Unit Statement of the Curriculum of the Master of Science in the field of Physics [MSc]

1. General guideline for contact hour requirement in the MSc Degree Curriculum

(1) A 6-credit course has around 120 total study hours, including contact hours, study time, assignment and assessment.
(2) About 30% of the total study hours are actual contact hours in the form of a class, e.g. lecture and tutorial/discussion hours.
(3) A 6-credit course has around 24-36 lecture hours.
(4) For lecture-based courses, normally there will be tutorial/discussion sessions.
(5) For courses employing a non-lecture or lab-based approach, e.g. IT-based, project-based or seminar courses, students are expected to devote about 60-90 hours for a 3-credit course, 120-180 hours for a 6-credit course, and 180-270 hours for a 9-credit course.

2. Credit Unit Statement of the MSc Degree Curriculum

The MSc degree curriculum consists of four major types of courses based on the learning activities. The majority of courses in the programmes are 6 credits. Examples of the contact hour requirements for the four categories of courses are described as follows.

Lecture-based courses (6 credits)
Contact hours: 24-36 hours of lectures and/or tutorials for 6 credits
These courses are taught predominantly by lectures and tutorials. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-75%) and continuous assessment (25-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments (totalling no more than 8,000 words) such as essays and project reports, and oral presentations.

Lecture with laboratory component courses (6 credits)
Contact hours: 30-36 hours of lectures
These courses are taught by a combination of lectures and laboratory/practical sessions. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-50%) and continuous assessment (50-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include coursework (totalling no more than 8,000 words) such as assignments, essays, computer coding tasks, laboratory reports, project reports, and oral presentations.

Seminar course (3 credits)
This course aims to initiate students into research culture and to develop a capacity for communication with an audience of varied background. Students are expected to attend about 18 hours of research seminars, meet with their supervisors regularly and spend about 50 hours on reading, self-study and oral presentation preparation. Assessment includes a written paper of at least 2,000 words, a 15-minute oral presentation, performance in answering questions related to the oral presentation as well as seminar participation.

Capstone Project (9 credits)
This course aims at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interest under the supervision of a teacher. The teacher will meet with the student regularly to discuss project progress. The total number of contact hours is about 24 hours. In addition, students are expected to devote about 180 hours of self and/or group study, research and/or experimental work for their project. Assessment includes research reports and a final project dissertation (totalling no more than 20,000 words).