

Evaluation of TAF II

Deliberation of Scientific Council, 17 July, 2014

Proposal

The purpose of PhD is to develop research skills. The current activity of a scientist/researcher, goes way beyond producing new results and publishing them. An engaged participation in the activities of the scientific community of one's speciality, is an essential condition for the development of fruitful and productive career. The relevance and interest of one's research can only be properly gauged if exposed to the discussion and criticism of one's peers. During training, a PhD student should therefore be encouraged to attend conferences, present his/her work to peers, use available advanced training opportunities, such as schools and workshops, give and attend talks, etc.

In the MAP-fis application to FCT funding, the following refers to Advanced Physics Topics II

“Advanced Physics Topics 2 (6 ECTS)

This unit currently consists of an activity of attending a school/conference under suggestion of his tutor, followed by adequate reporting (oral or written). Our experience suggests replacing this unit by one taking place during the entire period of the PhD, in which activities such as conference/school attendance, communications, oral or poster, seminars, delivered or attended, publications, are recorded; the resulting portfolio will be graded before the thesis examination by the thesis accompanying committee.”

This document details some guidelines for the implementation of this suggested structure for the curricular Unit Advanced Physics Topics II.

Objectives of Advanced Physics Topics II.

The purpose of Advanced Physics Topics II (TAF II) is to encourage students and their supervisor to be proactive in pursuit of training opportunities provided by Conferences, Workshops and Schools, and generally, of any activity involving science communication.

As such, this curricular unit extends over the period of the PhD, and will only be evaluated in the final year, prior to thesis submission. The student should initiate the process, by requesting the evaluation and providing a document detailing the activities that he/she deems relevant to document his/her commitment to a full participation in the activities of a scientific community. The document should indicate the role of the student in the papers and communications mentioned, and should be accompanied by a statement from the supervisor. The grade will be decided by the thesis accompanying committee, appointed at the same time as the thesis supervisor.

Criteria for Evaluation

We list activities that should be taken into account in the evaluation of Advanced Physics Topics II, in order of relative importance, although the thesis accompanying committee may also consider other activities not included in this list.

- Publication in international peer-Reviewed Journal;
- Invited lecturing in international schools;
- Invited talk at international conferences;
- Internship in institution external do MAP-fis;
- Teaching assignments in University, preferably at Master level;
- Articles for the general public on the topics of thesis research;
- Oral talk at an international conference;
- Poster communications in international conference;
- Invited seminar in institution external do MAP-fis;
- Invited talk in national conferences;
- Oral talks in national Conferences, including MAP-fis own annual event;
- Poster communication in National Conference, including MAP-fis own annual event;
- Group seminars or Journal Clubs.
- Conference/Workshop/school attendance.

Participation in at least one MAP-fis conference is mandatory, and regular participation is strongly encouraged.

As a guideline, during his thesis, the following activity would be deemed sufficient for TAF-II.

- two publications in indexed journal;
- two participations in International Conferences
- one yearly talk, beyond those in MAP-fis internal activities.

The annual report for renewal of registration should include a mention and a self-evaluation of the students progress in this area; the thesis accompanying committee, in its recommendation for renewal, should comment on these aspects of the report, especially if it finds reasons to suggest increased attention to this aspect of the student's training.