

# ICFP Master's Program

## Academic Rules & Regulations

*Second Year*

The master's degree in Fundamental Physics is jointly organized with the following partner universities and institutions:

Ecole Normale Supérieure - Paris Sciences & Lettres  
Université Paris Cité  
Université de Paris-Saclay  
Sorbonne Université  
Institut Polytechnique de Paris

Director of the ICFP Master: Frédéric Chevy

## I. Program Organization

The second year of the ICFP Master's program is structured around five specialized tracks:

- Condensed Matter Physics
- Physics of Energy and Climate Dynamics
- Quantum Physics
- Soft Matter and Biological Physics
- Theoretical Physics

### Semester 1 — Courses (30 ECTS)

Each student enrolls in one program and follows a combination of compulsory and optional courses. In exceptional cases, and with the agreement of the head of studies, a student may include one optional course from another track.

⚠ The language of instruction is English. All teaching, exercise, and practical materials are provided in English.

### Semester 2 — Research Internship

Students choose four optional courses from their program ( $4 \times 3$  ECTS), and complete a full-time research internship from April to June (18 ECTS), in France or abroad.

## II. Administrative Requirements

### 1. Administrative Registration

Registration is annual and mandatory. All students must complete it during the designated registration period. Late or incomplete registration prevents the validation of any credits for that academic year.

#### Registration rules by student profile:

- Students previously registered at Sorbonne Université, Université Paris Cité, Université Paris-Saclay, or Institut Polytechnique de Paris: register at their home institution.
- PSL or ENS-ICFP scholarship holders: register at ENS.
- All other students: register at one of the partner institutions (ENS, Sorbonne Université, Université Paris Cité, Université Paris-Saclay), as assigned by the Master's administration.

⚠ Registration is only finalized once tuition fees have been paid.

### 2. Course Registration

Students will be contacted each semester to finalize their course selection. Incomplete administrative registration may block access to course registration.

### 3. Course Evaluation

Students are required to complete a course-quality questionnaire each semester. This is a mandatory part of the academic process.

## III. Examinations & Validation

Evaluation criteria and procedures are communicated no later than the first day of classes and are published on the program's website.

Exams are scheduled by the Master's administration; students are notified by email. Unless otherwise stated, no documents or electronic devices are permitted during exams.

When relevant, the grade for each module is made of two components: a mid-term exam and a final exam. The module grade is the largest between the grade obtained at the final exam and the (1/3-2/3) weighted average between the mid-term and the final exams.

### 1. Credit System

The ICFP Master uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). A semester-long course is worth at least 30 ECTS credits; a yearlong course counts for 60 ECTS.

## 2. Semester Validation

### a) Automatic Validation

A module is validated when the student obtains a final grade of 10/20 or higher. A semester is automatically validated when all module grades are at or above 10/20.

### b) Validation by Compensation

If some module grades fall below 10/20 but the weighted semester average is at least 10/20, the semester may be validated by compensation.

- Students may refuse grade compensation. This decision must be explicitly communicated to the program coordinators and the Master's administration within one week of receiving the official grades.
- If compensation is refused and several grades are below 10/20, all corresponding modules must be retaken, not just a selection of them.
- The grade obtained during the second session replaces the initial grade, even if it is lower.

### c) Semester Not Validated

If the semester is not validated, students must retake the exam(s).

⚠ *The two semesters must each be validated independently. There is no eliminatory final grade, all modules contribute to the average.*

## 3. Resit Examinations

All resit exams may take place under conditions different from those of the initial exam. There are two types of resit exams.

### a) Resit Exam (second chance exam)

Students who have not validated a course at the end of the semester are eligible to retake the corresponding exam. Each examiner will contact students who have not achieved the pass mark.

Resit exams are scheduled at the end of each semester, typically between two and three weeks after the initial exam. The resulting grade is recorded as the final grade for the course and is capped at 10/20.

### b) Second Session Exam

If the semester remains unvalidated despite the resit exam, the student is automatically referred to the second session, held following the final semester jury.

In this case, the new grade replaces the initial grade and is not subject to any cap.

Students are responsible for contacting their instructor to obtain the relevant information.

| Situation for one semester                             | Consequence                                                               | Grade cap                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| All module grades $\geq 10/20$                         | Automatic validation                                                      | N/A                                                          |
| Weighted average $\geq 10/20$ (some modules $< 10$ )   | Validation by compensation (unless refused by the student)                | N/A                                                          |
| Module failed – Resit exam (2nd chance, same semester) | Student retakes the exam at the end of the semester                       | Grade capped at 10/20 – new grade replaces the initial grade |
| Semester still not validated after resit exam          | Automatic referral to the 2nd session, held after the final semester jury | No grade cap – new grade replaces the initial grade          |

#### 4. Absence from Examinations

Any absence from an exam must be justified with documentation, submitted to the administration and the relevant program director no later than one week after the exam date.

- Health reasons: a signed medical certificate stating the student was unable to attend on the day of the exam.
- Other reasons (bereavement, force majeure, etc.): appropriate supporting documentation.

With valid justification, the student will be permitted to retake the missed exam at the earliest opportunity before the semester jury. Contrary to resit, the grade will not be capped at 10/20.

#### 5. Grade Review

If a student believes there has been an error in the marking of their exam, they may request to review their exam paper. The review must be conducted in the presence of the examiner, and the program director must be informed in advance.

### IV. Examination Board & Honours

The end-of-year jury (degree jury) determines, based on academic performance, whether each student has fulfilled the conditions to progress or must repeat the year.

#### Conditions for Validation

- Each semester average grade must be above 10/20. Semester 1 and Semester 2 averages cannot compensate each other.
- Administrative registration must be finalized.

⚠ The decision of the Examination Board is final. The diploma is issued by the student's university of registration.

## Grading Scale & Honours

The ICFP Master follows the French grading system (0–20). The class average typically falls between 12 and 14/20. There is no ranking between students.

| Grade      | Mention    |
|------------|------------|
| 18 – 20    | Excellent  |
| 16 – 17.99 | Very Good  |
| 14 – 15.99 | Good       |
| 12 – 13.99 | Quite Good |
| 10 – 11.99 | Fair       |
| 00 – 09.99 | Fail       |

## V. Mandatory Research Internship

All students must complete a full-time research internship lasting at least three months, from April to June, in France or abroad. The internship is worth 18 ECTS credits.

### Requirements

- An internship agreement (*convention de stage*) must be signed by the institution where the student is enrolled, the host organization, and the intern before the internship begins.
- Students must use the internship form provided by their university of registration.
- The internship must conclude with a written report and an oral presentation, organized by each program.

All available internship offers can be found at: <https://stagescfp.phys.ens.fr>

## VI. Research Seminar Week

Each academic year, one week is dedicated to visits to ICFP partner institutions, including:

- Université PSL and its affiliated institutions (ENS, ESPCI, Collège de France, Institut Curie, etc.)
- Sorbonne Université
- Université Paris-Saclay
- Institut Polytechnique de Paris
- Université Paris Cité

This week offers students the opportunity to meet researchers from a wide range of fields and institutions, and to discover available PhD and internship opportunities.