Guidance on Completing SUPA and PG Cert in Researcher Development Requirements

Date : 1/10/2024

SUPA Courses

SUPA Graduate School Course Information : https://www.supa.ac.uk/courses

SUPA courses are divided into two classes :

- Advanced Specialist (formerly Technical)

- Professional Development (formerly Transferable skills / Core)

Students are expected to complete a minimum of :

- 40 hours of Advanced Specialist Classes

- 20 hours of Professional Development Classes

You can request credit for completing non-SUPA courses e.g.

- Summer/ winter shools

- Masters level (level 5) University Physics courses e.g. PH5XX

- courses provided by other postgraduate training institutes e.g. the NPL Postgraduate Institute, Cockcroft Institute, Marine Alliance For Science & Technology for Scotland (MASTS),...

- and others...

Non-SUPA course credit requests should be made via this request form .

Your SUPA course transcript can be found at https://my.supa.ac.uk

PG Cert in Researcher Professional Development (RPD)

PG Cert in Researcher Development Information :
https://strath.sharepoint.com/sites/PGRDevelopment/SitePages/PG-Cert-RPD_Students.aspx

Students need to attain 60 credits across 5 "classes" which map onto the domains of the Researcher Development Framework.

RD901 : Knowledge & Intellectual Abilities (20 credits)

RD902 : Personal Effectiveness (10 credits)

RD903 : Governance & Organisation (10 credits)

RD904 : Engagement, Influence & Impact (10 credits)

RD905 : Elective - any of the above (10 credits)

Note that nominally 1 Strathclyde credit = 10 hours of learning activity (includes lectures, tutorials, homework, independent study).

You can find a list of activities which you can record against these classes on the SPIDER list of PG Cert Activities .

Note that these are **not** only taught classes.

Some Options for Completing the PG Cert

The following are options/suggestions - there are lots of variations....

RD901

- SUPA Advanced Specialist Courses (20 credits for completing/passing 40 SUPA advanced specialist course hours)

RD902

- SUPA Professional Development Courses (10 credits for completing/passing 20 SUPA professional development course hours)

- Reflection & Planning 1 (5 credits for completing the year 1 assessment activities (talk + extended report + viva)

- Reflection & Planning 1 (5 credits for completing the year 2 assessment activities (poster + draft/published journal article + viva)

RD903

- Research skills level 5 undergraduate class (PH511) (20 credits)

- Students who completed an MPhys at Strathclyde can claim 20 credits under recognition of prior learning having completed PH511 in 5th year of the MPhys.

- Some University Research Development Courses e.g.

- - Research Integrity (2 credits)

  - Completion of a data management plan (1 credit)

  - …

RD904

- Journal club presentation

- Workshop/conference presentation (poster or oral)

- Teaching/demonstrating/tutoring (including training for teaching)

- ….

RD905

- 10 credits from any category above

Independent Development Activities

There are a number of activities labelled "Independent development of …" aligned with each class RD901/2/3/4 . One or more of these can be useful in cases where finding relevant courses is difficult e.g. RD903.

For each 10 hours (approx. 1 full day) associated with this activity (evidence required), students can claim 1 credit.

Reflective Essays

After attaining the required number of credits for each class, your supervisor (or the PG tutor) will approve the credits. This will trigger a request from the PG Cert administration for you to complete and upload a reflective essay for that class. Guidance will be provided in the email from the PG Cert administration. You will have to complete one essay for each of the 5 classes RD901/2/3/4/5. Writing these will take time - take this into account when planning!

Submitted essays are assessed by the PG Cert administration (not the Physics department!). This process can be lengthy - see deadlines on PG Cert information pages. Leaving this too late will delay the award of the PG Cert (and consequently the award of the PhD).