

## **Roles of External Examiners in the School of Physics**

### **Charles Patterson, DUTL School of Physics**

The School has three external examiners at any one time, one for the degrees in Physics and Astrophysics, one for the degree in Nanoscience (jointly with the School of Chemistry) and one for the degree in Theoretical Physics (jointly with the School of Mathematics).

All Senior Sophister exam papers and model answers and marking schemes are sent to the external examiners at the end of January/beginning of February each year for comment by the extern. Questions are moderated by examiners in the light of comments. Where exams are taken by more than one student cohort, more than one extern comments on the papers.

The School of Physics has an academic staff member appointed to oversee setting and marking of examinations (currently Prof. J. Lunney). This person liaises with the DUTL in overseeing the examinations processes.

### **Final year project assessment**

Final year projects are overseen by the SS year head (currently Prof. J. Coleman). Physics, Nanoscience and Physics and Astrophysics cohorts have 9 week full time projects. Theoretical Physics cohorts have a shorter (6 hours per week \* 9 weeks, 4 ECT) project in Physics and may also opt for a 5 ECT or 10 ECT project in the School of Mathematics. The Schools of Mathematics and Physics are presently discussing a jointly coordinated, compulsory 10 ECT project ion the SS year.

Final year projects in Physics, Nanoscience and Physics and Astrophysics are marked by the supervisor and two second readers (marking under different criteria).

Physics and Physics and Astrophysics projects are moderated via a 20 minute interview with the Directors of the degree courses. 10% of the marks for the projects are awarded for a poster presentation of the projects. Supervisors and second readers write a short report on the project which is available to the externs when they are here for the Court of Examiners.

### **Court of Examiners**

External examiners usually arrive the evening 2 days prior to the meeting. They examine SS script marking, may interview students, look at statistics of SS exam marks, syllabus, etc. Years below SS are not considered by the Physics, Nanoscience or Physics and Astrophysics externs. The current Physics and Physics and Astrophysics extern is keen to look at detailed statistics of marks by module.