Student Transition System for the School of Physics

29 responses

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Are you a home, rest of UK & Ireland, or international student?

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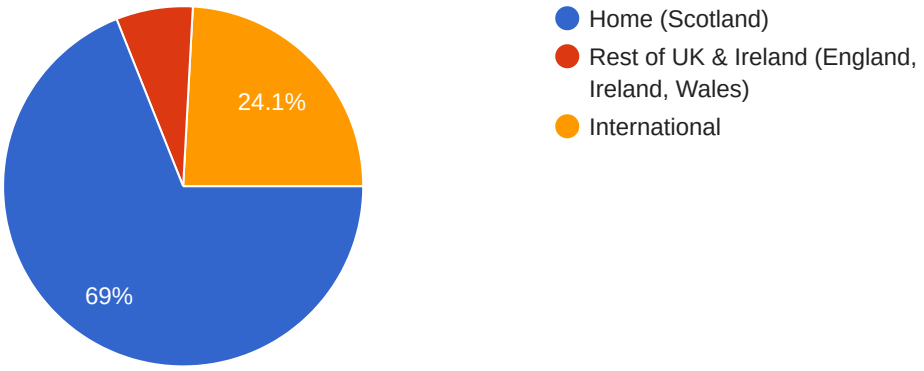
29 responses



What level are you currently in

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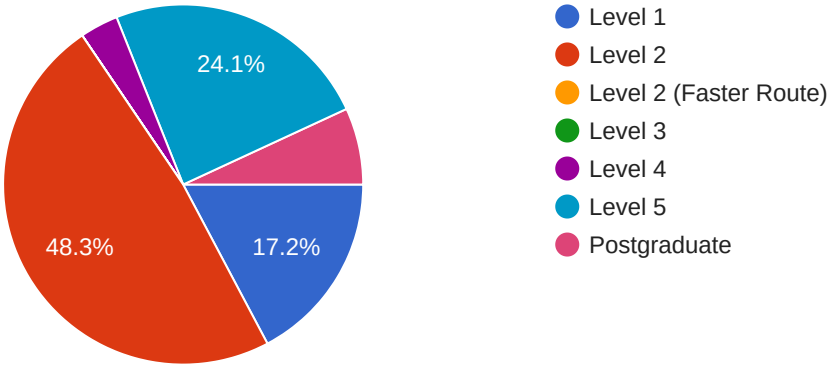

Are you a Physics major, or are you taking it as an elective?

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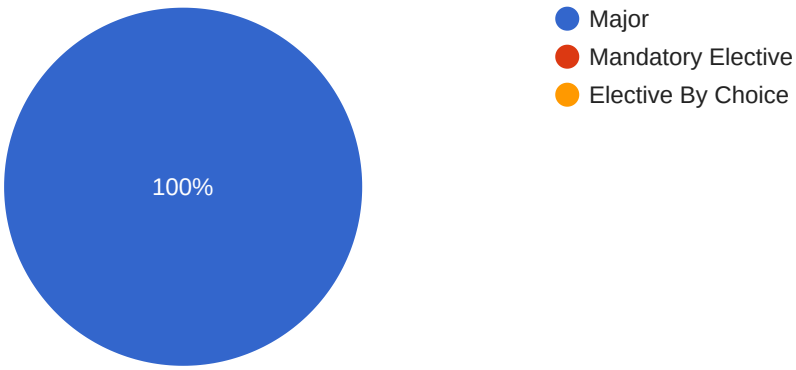

What do you wish you knew before starting university level Physics?

29 responses

How to read and write proper scientific papers.

You aren’t dumb, it’s just that everyone here is as smart as you now

That a lot of labs will involve coding, so it would have helped if I'd learned python before uni

Working in physics requires a lot of programming skills

The amount of programming

That there would be additional material available beyond lectures, e.g. course notes available on moodle which can be used to help studying. Moreover; that if you don’t understand something in a lecture, you can refer to these extra materials later to fill in that understanding.

What is expected of us during lab experiments

More about self study nature of university

How much computer programming is involved in the course

How much harder it is than almost all other degrees.

the importance of coding

How more mathematically formal it would be.

That coding was compulsory

What content would be covered. Get to know more in depth rather than just the name of the modules

What lab skills do I need, what do I need to take away from lectures, how do I learn physics in order to get a degree?

the difficulty of the labs

I wish i knew that in a lot of the questions you derive equations before using them (e.g dynamics)

How often you will have to go and independently search something up if you don't understand it. This is challenging sometimes as it is hard to find reliable alternative sources to the Y&F textbook

Need to keep the deadlines in mind and schedule everything on your own for each subject as they are independent from each other with different module within each subjects.

More geometric optics

python

The magnitude of the difference in difficulty level from higher physics to university physics.

the challenge of the lab work

That Maths is actually really difficult when you don't really know what your doing.

Note-taking apps (like Obsidian), a better way to organise my time and manage self-studying

Where do I begin?

Python basics

N/A

the amount of course work

Describe how you study to retain information as a Physics student

29 responses

Read lecture notes once thru. Read thru again and highlight. Then do questions (normally with solutions close to hand).

Do tutorial questions! You can’t ynderstand it without doing questions

Making summary sheets of key concepts and doing practice questions

I usually go through the nota before lectures to identify what I have problems with, then I go to lectures where it's explained again and I know what my weak spots are. Then I usually complete the problem sheets throughout the semester

Doing practice questions and past exam papers

Attend lectures; attempt related exercises shortly afterwards; make formal notes if a topic is particularly difficult to understand (as making notes necessitates me to understand it first).

Lecture notes and example problems

Flashcards for knowledge, and tutorial questions/past papers

Pre reading for lectures and reviewing lectures after. Questions at the end of the week.

Tutorial/ past paper questions exclusively

review lecture material and take notes, practice on exercises

Working through problems

Notes and pass papers

Making mind maps with key questions to answer for recaps.

I read the textbook and attempt questions on a subject. I also watch explanation videos done by lecturers.

multiple past papers questions

I do practise questions and flash cards for definitions

Past paper questions, tutorial questions, redoing examples

Make flashcards for equations and definition then do questions.

Revision questions, theory descriptive videos.

flash cards and practice questions

Reading summaries and doing lots of practice questions as well memorising key definitions

flashcards, lots of personal notes and practise questions

Rewrite my lecture notes from the day and review them regularly.

I print out the notes of the course and annotate them

N/A

Notes

Past paper questions

i dont study

Do you believe a mobile app or web-page would be a better format for a student transition system?

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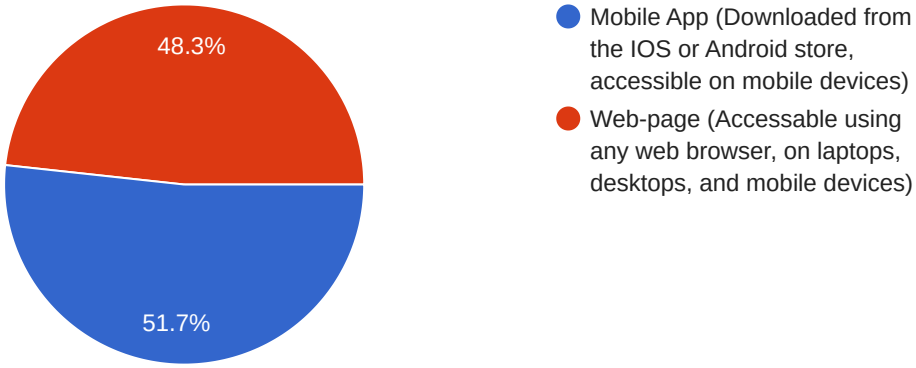
29 responses



From the following, which do you believe would be the most beneficial to have in a student transition system for the School of Physics

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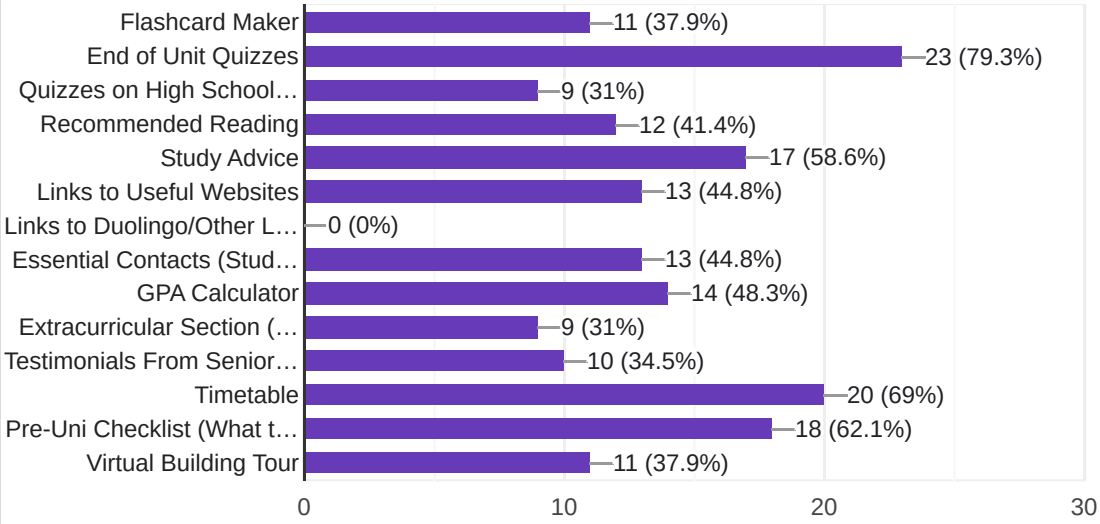
29 responses



Please state any comments regarding why you chose your choices above?

29 responses

N/A

Keep it simple and focused purely in the school of physics I.e. keep extracurricular stuff for social media and other sources. Student contacts are hard to fine, especially ppl who are available to chat.

More simple understanding based questions are what are really lacking in the curriculum so end of unit concept based questions would be unbelievably helpful.

I believe most of the choices are essential to a student and flashcard maker can be useful if a student chooses to use it

I have found no overlap from high school chemistry (I did a-level) to university physics, I think flash cards could be helpful for remembering the meanings of equations but not much else, end of unit quizzes would be helpful as all our exams are at the end of the year even for semester 1 courses, links to useful websites would be to practice questions and answers or past exam papers and answers

These are the things which I feel were not readily available to me when I started uni that would have helped ease the transition to uni.

Would make the first few weeks easier if we could prepare earlier.

They would all be useful

Getting tests on high school work would be good to keep it rolling over after summer. Unit quizzes are good just to test knowledge without it counting for something. We are not really given advice on how to study, that would be useful. Often with the amount of work you can forget about extra curricular activities so having a section for that would be useful.

Given the way I and most of my friends study, consistent end of unit questions would be very useful. I don't think many people use notes/flashcards to study for physics. I think it would be useful to highlight this to first years before they start.

Virtual building tour would be helpful for students struggling with finding rooms

These would be beneficial as students could study the subject further and do problems at their finger tips

Too many websites are used at uni for such purposes and it's extremely hard to navigate and confusing managing them

Pre-uni checklist would be ideal to feel more prepared going into uni. Quizzes that have no impact on grades are way less daunting and really helpful

Fun things are good to have to give people a bit of novelty and something to relate to in the university experience. Extra, niche things like GPA calculator is exactly the sort of thing you want to put in an app that has many uses.

Timetable with what classes would be on at what time so you can start thinking about how you would create your timetable.

End of unit quizzes would be extremely helpful for a non-graded way to know how your doing throughout year

I think sometimes it is difficult to summarise what you've learnt throughout a module so the end of unit quizzes would help refresh everything in your head. The quizzes on high school physics are useful since I've seen others including myself struggle on a specific problem which was actually something we had done a version of in high school but this is not fresh in our head so it is easy to forget how to approach said problem.

They are useful in succeeding at the subject.

End of unit quizzes would be helpful to gauge your own comprehension levels.

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Quizzes would be useful as long as they're at the difficulty level of exams.
A GPA calculator would be useful in tracking progress throughout the course.

GPA calculator is a good idea as I never understood this last year

I feel as though they would be beneficial to get new students used to what they should doing once they get to uni.

Quizzes are a good idea to keep track of how much you've understood. Tips from senior physics students sounds great, I wish I had them when I started

It makes it easier to find the right place with no stress, and easier to have a look at your grades or contact a person with ease

These choices would help with info consolidation and organisation.

those are what i find the most useful

Are there any other features other than the above that you would wish to see in the application?

14 responses

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Nah

Online calculators like Desmos,

Links to past papers

Weekly checklist(to-do list) of things due that week, expected reading. This is done in other courses and it really helps to keep track of your progress and what's expected of you each week.

Just combined everything into 1 useful app or webpage

Upcoming homeworks/tasks to submit. Adjustable homepage display, like widgets.

Those doing Undergraduate Physics often do not have much in the way of programming skills, which is used throughout physics degrees. Perhaps a bit of introduction to python programming.

Maybe a forum for new physics students to chat and make friends on the course easier

Maybe a quiz that is only made available to you if you have performed well enough in the end of unit quizzes, this quiz would give you a more challenging problem from that topic i.e. a past paper question. Not sure how practical this would be.

Timetable with deadlines for each subjects and not just for physics. Also, for making flashcard, I wish there to be adaptable for writing on it with apple pen or something and can paste graphs and diagrams and input mathematical equations in language such as latex.

No

Hi Euan, sorry, I didn't know how else to contact you other than through the survey. I like the idea of assisting students with their transition, and I think helping students to transition from School to University is great. I am wondering if we could also help MSc students, who are mostly international, transition to the University of Glasgow and Scotland. I think lots of MSc students find this difficult, and for example don't do well in their first set of exams, not due to lack of ability (they then tend to do much better in their second exams) but due to something else. Are you a good person to discuss this with? Thanks, Johannes (johannes.courtial@glasgow.ac.uk)

A section for past papers and other helpful documents like equation/relationship sheets