

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2024

Quantum field theory 717 (PHY 717)

Qualification	Postgraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Module credits	10.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	Admission only by permission of the Head of the Department of Physics
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Physics
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Special relativity. Representation of transformations in quantum physics. Canonical quantisation of free scalar fields. Interactions, scattering and the reduction formula. Path integrals in quantum mechanics; the harmonic oscillator. Free fields. Interacting fields, perturbation theory and Feynman diagrams. Scattering amplitudes and the Feynman rules. Renormalisation: Dimensional analysis, the exact propagator, the exact three point vertex, higher order corrections and perturbation theory to all orders. Symmetry: Continuous symmetries and conserved currents, discrete symmetries. The renormalisation group: Infrared divergences, different renormalisation schemes and asymptotic freedom, the renormalisation group. Spontaneous symmetry breaking: A discrete example, a continuous example, the Goldstone boson.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.