Introduction to On-Line Physics Resources

The Physics Unit of Study in which you are currently enrolled has some elements available on-line. What follows is a brief introduction to studying in this environment, including what equipment you will need to study on-line, how to find your unit of study and where to go to find help.

What Do You Need?

To study on-line you need regular access to a computer with an internet connection either at home, at the University or a local Internet Café. The University has provided Access Labs on the main campus (see http://www.usyd.edu.au/ict/switch/labs/) where you can use modern computers for no cost. The details of the Camperdown campus centres can be found on:
http://sydney.edu.au/ict/switch/labs/locations.shtml#camperdown-darlington

You will need access to the Internet for two main reasons.

- *eLearning*. This is used to provide access to lecture notes, assignment solutions, laboratory pre-work, class discussion groups, laboratory marks, amongst other things.
- *MasteringPhysics* and *MasteringAstronomy* are on-line systems used for doing assignments and tutorial/review questions.

1. eLearning

The following links will give you more information on how to access eLearning at the University of Sydney and how to use its online learning tools:

Welcome to Sydney eLearning
http://sydney.edu.au/elearning/student/

How to use eLearning
http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm

How to Get Into eLearning

Open a browser and go to the either the Physics Home page (http://sydney.edu.au/science/physics) On the Physics Home page select one of the pages under *Current Students*, such as Junior Physics. Each *Current Students* page has a link to eLearning.

You can also go directly to eLearning by: http://elearning.sydney.edu.au

On the login page (if at home you should probably bookmark this page) you should log into eLearning using your Username and Password. These will be the Unikey Username and Password that you were sent with your confirmation of enrolment. Once you have entered the appropriate Username and Password you see the *my eLearning* page showing the Units of Study in which you are enrolled and which have a eLearning presence (in Physics, all undergraduate Units of Study are represented on eLearning). Units may not be available until the first days of semester.

What to Expect of eLearning

The web is a new learning environment for most people and it's probably a good idea to have a look around when you first arrive. Explore your on-line Unit of Study and check out what information and tools are available. Remember this is a new medium and will require some adjustment to use effectively – it is not a book and it is not a classroom though it has elements of both. Be prepared to play around until you feel comfortable and don't be scared of making mistakes.

The Junior Physics eLearning sites are divided into sections corresponding to components of your course. These are generally:

- Announcements
- Discussion Board
- Unit and Module Outlines
- Lecture Modules
- Lectopia Recordings
- Workshop Tutorials

- Assignments
- Experimental Lab
- Other Resources

The information provided for Physics Units is mostly resource material and links. Some is specific to a Unit or Module (e.g. extra notes or demonstrations), whilst some is generally useful to anyone in Junior Physics (e.g. past exam papers and solutions). Information presented will develop with time and your comments are welcome.

One important tool in this environment is "Discussion Board". Using the Discussions area you can post, read and search for messages in various ways. Messages may be placed on a Discussion forum for all to see. You may find messages from Physics staff here as well as the collected questions, answers and comments from other students in the Unit of Study.

Students and different lecturers may use these facilities a little, a lot, or not at all. Physics staff tend to be in the 'not at all' category, but some students use the discussion or email facilities to ask questions of whoever is reading. The messages will usually be read by staff, but perhaps not immediately.

To get the most out of the Discussions it is worth remembering three principles: Think about what other people have posted, Ask if things are unclear, and Contribute any ideas or information you have found useful. When using web-based communication tools you should also remember that there are real people on the other end. As there are no accompanying physical expressions or vocal cues to enhance communication it is worth making extra effort to ensure your messages are clear and easily understood. Inappropriate and discriminatory comments which would not be tolerated in the physical classroom are equally unacceptable in the on-line environment.

Email

The University provides you with email access based on your username. **We often use this email address to provide you with important information regarding this unit of study. We expect you to periodically read your email account or to forward mail from it to an email account you do read (e.g. a hotmail account).**

2. MasteringPhysics and MasteringAstronomy

Students enrolled in PHYS1001 (Regular), PHYS1003 (Technological), PHYS1091/1902 (Advanced), PHYS1002 (Fundamentals) and PHYS1004 (Environmental) all use the *MasteringPhysics* system http://www.masteringphysics.com for assignments. The requirements to use *MasteringPhysics* are described on its support page (and pages that can be access from): http://www.masteringphysics.com/site/support/index.html

PHYS1500 (Astronomy) use *MasteringAstronomy* available at http://www.masteringastronomy.com**.** The comments on *MasteringPhysics* in this document also apply to *MasteringAstronomy*. The requirements to use *MasteringAstronomy* are located on its support page (and pages that can be accessed from):
http://www.masteringastronomy.com/site/support/index.html

Also see the FAQs for *MasteringPhysics* and *MasteringAstronomy*
http://www.masteringphysics.com/site/support/faq-students.html
and our local FAQs (about how we use the system for assignments
http://www.physics.usyd.edu.au/pdfs/current/jphys/MP_faq.pdf

Also see the Guide for getting started with *MasteringPhysics*
http://www.masteringphysics.com/assets/site/res/pdf/student_bklt_FINAL.pdf

MasteringPhysics and MasteringAstronomy have minimum computer system requirements for using them. These relate to the operating system on your computer, and the browser and its settings (especially the settings for cookies, and javascript, and flashplayer).

The M*asteringPhysics* Support page http://www.masteringphysics.com/site/support/system-requirements.html tells you how to enable these settings and plug-ins.

For your first access you also need the course ID

SUPHYS1001Y2011 for PHYS 1001 Physics 1 (Regular)
SUPHYS1002Y2011 for PHYS 1002 Physics 1 (Fundamentals)

SUPHYS1003Y2011 for PHYS 1003 Physics 1 (Technological)
SUPHYS1004Y2011 for PHYS 1004 Physics 1 (Environmental)
SUPHYS1901Y2011 for PHYS 1901 Physics 1A (Advanced)
SUPHYS1902Y2011 for PHYS 1902 Physics 1B (Advanced)
SUPHYS1500Y2011 for PHYS1500 Astronomy

and your **Student ID number (SID)** (e.g. 200459311) and your **email address.** Subsequent logins require only your chosen username and password (so please remember them!).

Make sure that you get your SID correct and these are checked against enrolment lists and your access will be suspended if not enrolled. The SID is also used to connect the marks from various components of your course and it is important that it be correct.

ActivPhysics

ActivPhysics on-line visualisations are available to supplement MasteringPhysics. No login or password is required. They can be found on:
Knight, Jones, Field *College Physics*
http://wps.aw.com/aw_knight_cp_1/56/14522/3717706.cw/index.html
Young and Freedman University Physics 11th edition
http://wps.aw.com/aw_young_physics_11/13/3510/898588.cw/nav_and_content/index.html

On-Line Access to Textbooks

MasteringPhysics also provides on-line access to your Textbook via your *MasteringPhysics* login. This is only available if you have obtained a *MasteringPhysics* access code via the purchase of a new textbook or bought the e-book access code via the Coop Bookshop. Free codes obtained from the Physics Student Office do not allow access to the on-line textbook.

3. Where to Get Help

eLearning
If you are having troubles or difficulties with your Username and Password you can contact one of the Access Labs on campus or contact the ITS Help Desk at http://itassist.usyd.edu.au/about/contacts/ or ring 9351 6000.

If you are having trouble getting through to your online learning site from home you may need to contact you own Internet Service Provider or the ITS Help Desk.

If you are in a eLearning session and you encounter problems, the eLearning Help button at the top of each page will give you simple answers to most straightforward problems. For answers to some of the more common problems see Student Express
http://sydney.edu.au/elearning/student/

For further eLearning assistance, you can email direct to the Help Desk.
sydney.elearning@sydney.edu.au

*MasteringPhysics/**MasteringAstronomy***
Help can be obtained from the considerable on-line help provided by the system. In addition, the booklet that was provided along with the Student Access Kit may also be found at
http://www.masteringphysics.com/assets/site/res/pdf/student_bklt_FINAL.pdf
and a local FAQ list (contains information about our assignments) is at
http://www.physics.usyd.edu.au/pdfs/current/jphys/MP_faq.pdf.
Other questions can be posted on the *MasteringPhysics* or MasteringAstronomy discussion groups on the eLearning pages for this unit.

When all else fails, please contact Dr Richard Thompson (r.thompson@physics.usyd.edu.au; or 9036 9259; or Room 213A School of Physics) for help.

We hope you find the resources presented useful and we welcome your comments in helping to improve them.

