

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 36541
Name: Photonic: Guides and Devices
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1105 - Degree in Physics	Facultat de Física	4	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1105 - Degree in Physics	Complements of Physics	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

The «Photonics: Waveguides and Devices» course is focused on the study of the guided propagation of high frequency electromagnetic waves and is intended to understand the underlying physics, to develop methods to solve problems and to analyze the essential components in current technological such as optoelectronics, laser technology and fiber-optic communications.

The course has a theoretical/practical part and an experimental (laboratory) part that allows students to acquire the fundamental concepts and the basic experimental skills to develop their career or to enroll in a master's degree in photonics.

The course is 6 ECTS credits allocated, and takes place in the first term of the fourth course of the Physics degree. We recommend the students to have taken a subject in electromagnetics (including laboratory) before.

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PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE**



There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

We recommend the students to have taken the following subjects (or equivalents) of the Physics degree: Electromagnetismo, Laboratorio de Electromagnetismo, Cálculo and Métodos Matemáticos.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1105 - Degree in Physics

Ability to collect and interpret relevant data in order to make judgements.

Basic & applied Research: acquire an understanding of the nature and ways of physics research and of how physics research is applicable to many fields other than physics, e.g. engineering; be able to design experimental and/or theoretical procedures for: (i) solving current problems in academic or industrial research; (ii) improving the existing results.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Being able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions through argumentation and reasoning which are characteristic of the scientific activity, using basic concepts and tools of physics.

Foreign Language skills: Have improved command of English (or other foreign languages of interest) through: use of the basic literature, written and oral communication (scientific and technical English), participation in courses, study abroad via exchange programmes, and recognition of credits at foreign universities or research centres.

Knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of physics in theoretical and experimental aspects, and the mathematical background needed for its formulation.

Learning ability: be able to enter new fields through independent study, in physics and science and technology in general.

Literature Search: be able to search for and use physical and other technical literature, as well as any other sources of information relevant to research work and technical project development.

Modelling & Problem solving skills: be able to identify the essentials of a process / situation and to set up a working model of the same; be able to perform the required approximations so as to reduce a problem to an approachable one. Critical thinking to construct physical models.

Physics general culture: Be familiar with the most important areas of physics and with those approaches which span many areas in physics, or connections of physics with other sciences.

Problem solving: be able to evaluate clearly the orders of magnitude in situations which are physically different, but show analogies, thus allowing the use of known solutions in new problems .

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay



audiences.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

To know how to apply the knowledge acquired to professional activity, to know how to solve problems and develop and defend arguments, relying on this knowledge.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Guiding systems with translational symmetry

- 1.1. Introduction
- 1.2. Guided electromagnetic waves.
- 1.3. Classification of modes.
- 1.4 TEM mode: transmission lines.

2. Propagation of energy

- 2.1. Introduction
- 2.2. Power flow.
- 2.3. Attenuation.
- 2.4. Mode orthogonality.
- 2.5. Phase velocity and velocity of the energy flow.

3. Guiding mechanisms

- 3.1. Introduction
- 3.2. Conducting walls waveguide: rectangular and circular waveguides.
- 3.3. Planar dielectric waveguide.
- 3.4. Surface waves and plasmons.



4. Propagation of pulses

- 4.1. Introduction.
- 4.2. Frequency spectrum of an electromagnetic pulse.
- 4.3. Integral formulation of pulse propagation.
- 4.4. Group velocity and dispersion.
- 4.5. Differential equation of pulse propagation.

5. Optical fibers

- 5.1. Introduction.
- 5.2. Guided modes in a fiber. Fundamental mode a cutoff wavelength.
- 5.3. Attenuation in singlemode fibers.
- 5.4. Dispersion parameter. Dispersion in singlemode fibers.

6. Resonators

- 6.1. Introduction.
- 6.2. Parameters of a resonator.
- 6.3. Resonant cavities.
- 6.4. Recirculating resonators.

7. Mode coupled systems

- 7.1. Introduction.
- 7.2. Coupling of copropagating modes.
- 7.3. Couplers and wavelength division multiplexers.



8. Non reciprocal propagation in magnetic fields

- 8.1. Introduction
- 8.2. Magnetization of a ferromagnetic material. Larmor precession.
- 8.3. Permeability tensor.
- 8.4. Faraday rotation of polarization.
- 8.5. Duality in dielectric materials.
- 8.6. Isolators and circulators.

9. Introduction to nonlinear effects

- 9.1. Introduction
- 9.2. Material polarization. Materials with instantaneous response.
- 9.3. Susceptibility tensor. Electric susceptibility tensors.
- 9.4. Examples of nonlinear effects.
- 9.5. Electro-optic modulators.
- 9.6. Self phase modulation.

10. Laboratory

- Experiment 1: CHARACTERIZATION OF TRANSMISSION LINES
- Experiment 2: CHARACTERIZATION OF A RECTANGULAR WAVEGUIDE
- Experiment 3: CHARACTERIZATION OF OPTICAL FIBERS
- Experiment 4: STUDY OF A DIELECTRIC RESONATOR
- Experiment 5: STUDY OF A FIBER OPTIC DIRECTIONAL COUPLER

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	45,00
Laboratory	15,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
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Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	45,00
Independent study and work	20,00
Preparation of lessons	15,00
Preparation for assessment activities	10,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course will include two types of activities:

1. **Theory and problems** (3 hours per week). Basic theoretical contents, with applications examples and questions.
2. **Laboratory** (3 hours per session, 5 sessions). Experiments carried out by the students with quantitative analysis and theoretical discussion.

EVALUATION

The weight in the qualification of the different evaluable parts, that is, theory, problems and laboratory will be: 50%, 25% and 25% respectively.

Attendance in laboratory classes is compulsory.

The evaluation of the course will have two contributions:

- 1) Written exam (50% of theory grade and 50% of problems grade): One part will be devoted to theoretical and short practical questions. Another part will consist of application problems.
- 2) Continuous evaluation (50% of theory grade and 50% of problems grade): Solution of problems and practical questions suggested during the lectures. Discussions carried out in the classroom.
- 3) Laboratory: the work in the laboratory will be evaluated from the presentation of memories / reports of the different experiments carried out.

These evaluation criteria are common to the first and second calls.

REFERENCES

- «Photonic Devices», Jia-Ming Liu. Cambridge University Press 2005 (formato electrónico disponible en biblioteca).



- «Fundamentals of optical waveguides», K. Okamoto. Academic Press, 2011.
- «Microwave Engineering», D.M. Pozar. Wiley 2011.
- «Fundamentals of Photonics», B.E.A. Saleh, M.C. Teich. Wiley, 2019.