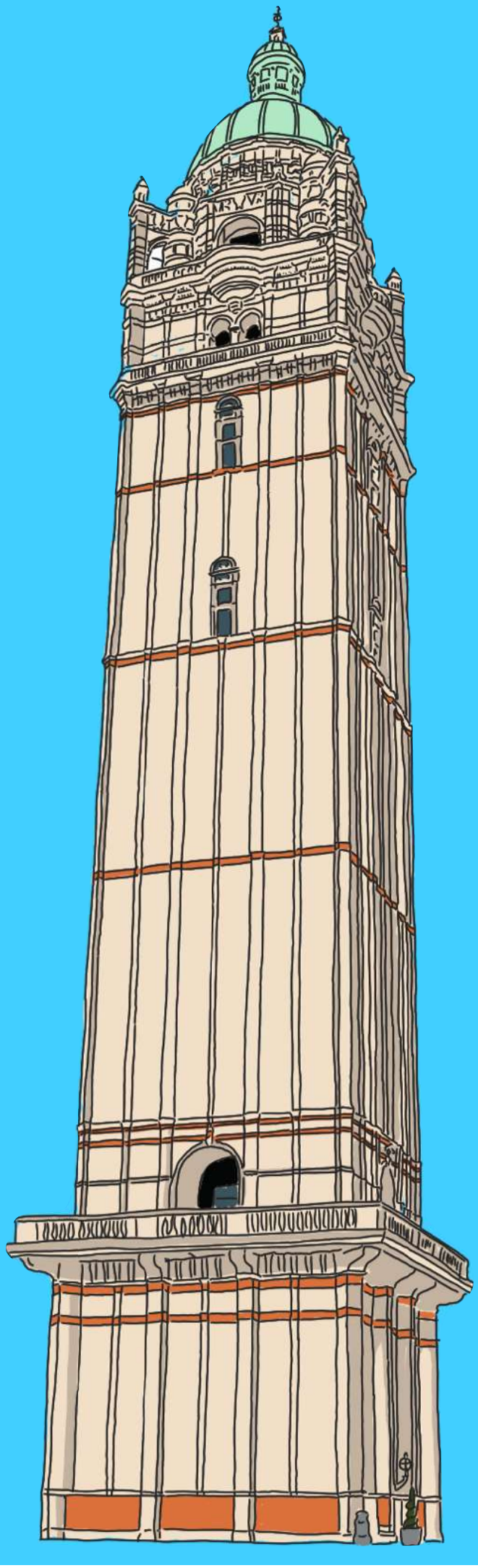
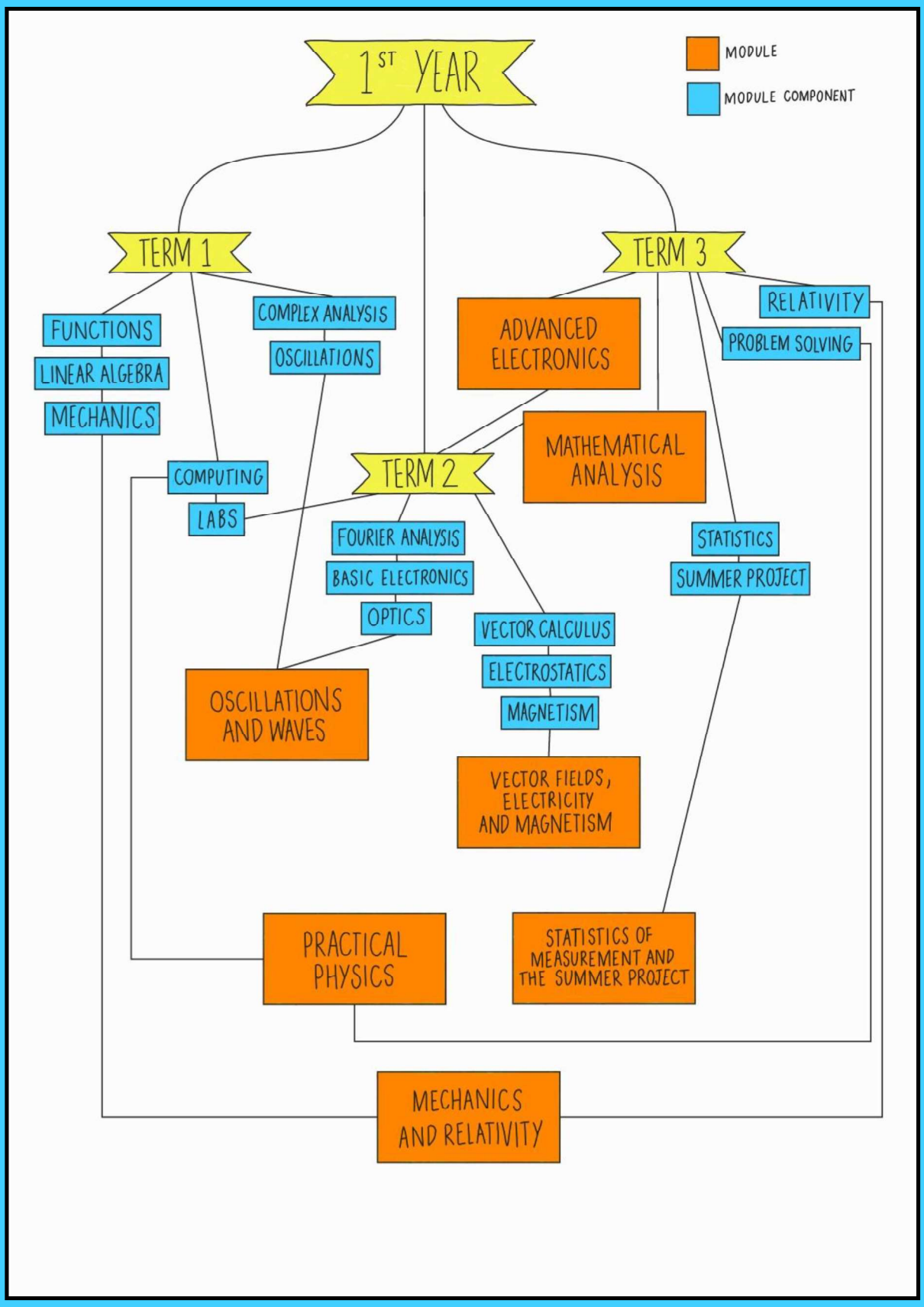
WELCOME TO IMPERIAL!

YOUR GUIDE TO STARTING A BRILLIANT PHYSICS JOURNEY



First Year at a Glance



How Will I Learn?

Lectures

Typically 50 minutes long.
All lectures will be in-person, apart from Advanced Electronics. To support your learning, the lectures for the week will be posted on Panopto, which you can access through Blackboard Learn.

Seminars

Seminars give you a chance to discuss the week's content in greater detail. You will work through questions in increasing difficulty with your group, and a Teaching Assistant (TA) nearby to guide you if necessary.

Quick Tip #2

Seminars alternate, (i.e. Week 2 M&R, Week 3 O&W). You may find it helpful to plan your lecture schedule around this.

Academic Tutorials

Academic tutorial are where you can bring any extra questions you have from your problem sheets to your tutor. They may also have a set of questions prepared to look over. Note – Complete your 'Think About the Physics' quizzes!

Problem Sheets

Think of your problem sheet as the list of questions at the end of the chapter. This is where you get to test your understanding of the week's concepts. Roughly twice per term, you will complete an assessed problem sheet (APS).

How Will I Be Assessed?

Written Exam

The main form of assessment is a written exam. Your first exam will be in January 2024 and is for the Mechanics and Relativity module.

Group Projects

Physics is a collaborative subject, no person is an island! There are several great opportunities to collaborate with your peers in your first year. In Term 1, you will work on a research project in Oscillations and Waves, to develop your professional skills. In Term 3, you'll be working on the summer project, lasting the whole term with an assigned supervisor for guidance.

Computing Projects

In your first term at Imperial, you will have a few introductory lectures and computing lab sessions, culminating in a computing project where you use the skills you've learnt in a physical context. In the summer term, you'll also be working on two simulation projects; a group project applying knowledge from your Statistics of Measurement lectures, and an individual Jupyter Notebook task applying knowledge from your Relativity lectures.

Other:

Sometimes you can gain course credit for filling things in, e.g. 'Think About the Physics' quizzes. Here you evaluate how confident you feel with the lecture material, your answers inform what is discussed in your academic tutorials.
You will also write a topical review about an assigned research paper for Mechanics and Relativity. In VFEM seminars, you will also be introduced to 'PeerWise', a forum wherein you will write questions for your peers and answer some too!

Take this to Heart

1. **You belong at Imperial.** You are not an imposter; you deserve to be here.
2. You offer something unique that nobody else can.
3. **It is okay if you don't understand something straight away.** Researchers are stuck most of the time anyway!
4. **If you were an expert in your field,** you would not need to be here. You have come here to learn.
5. The environment is different here, and the work is a step up, but **nobody wants to see you fail.**
6. You can succeed, and **you will succeed** if you study and put in the work.
7. It is okay to make mistakes, **nobody has ever excelled without failure.** Pick yourself up, dust yourself off and **keep going.**
8. If you are finding something difficult, **ask for help.**
9. **Don't feel embarrassed** to ask for help. Everybody needs it.
10. **Enjoy yourself,** you know why you chose to study physics, make the most of your time here!

"Physics is like learning a musical instrument or a new language... Practice, not perfection."

- Dr Isabel Rabey

What If I Don't Understand Something?

Remember that this is university, you're bound to find something difficult. It doesn't matter if you're having trouble at the beginning of the year, or at the end of the course:

Never be afraid to ask for help.

If you're a bit confused you can:
- Talk to your course mates
- Go to the Physics Helpdesk
- Go to Office Hours

If you don't feel comfortable doing any of these things, **email your lecturer or the Student Liaison Officer (who can help with academic support), they will be more than happy to help.**

All illustrations have been produced by Nabihah Rahman.