Hi, I'm going to help you with Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, cohort 2026 curriculum!

You can find out your curriculum here ↗



Here's the content:

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These cases are based on the most frequently asked questions



Let’s start from the basics:

What you must do during 2 years of study?

- get 120 ECTS credits and reach these numbers of ECTS credits for each stream
- cover all compulsory elements under each stream
- prepare and defend your thesis

1 ECTS credit = 27 astronomical hours



Skoltech curriculum plan has five Streams:

- Stream 1 (STE) – 36 ECTS credits
- Stream 2 (Sector) – 12 ECTS credits
- Stream 3 (E&I) – 6 ECTS credits
- Stream 4 (Research & MSc Thesis Project) – 48 ECTS credits
- Stream 5 (Options) – 18 ECTS credits

On top of 120 ECTS credits you may take “Extracurricular activities” – maximum 20 ECTS credits overall, maximum 10 ECTS credits per year.

Your load per term must be minimum 12 and maximum 18 ECTS credits. During one academic year your load should not exceed 60 ECTS credits + 10 ECTS credits for “Extracurricular activities”.

Let’s talk about the compulsory part

These are the educational elements that you must complete.

- **The list of these educational elements will not be changed during 2 years of studies!**

You have compulsory:

12 ECTS credits in Stream 2 (Sector)	
Research Immersion	**6**
48 ECTS credits in Stream 4 (Research & MSc Thesis Project)	
Research Seminar “Modern Problems of Mathematical Physics”	**12**
Early Research Project	**6**
Thesis Research Project	**12**
Thesis Proposal	**3**
Status Review	**3**
Predefense	**3**
Thesis Defense	**9**
6 ECTS credits in Stream 5 (Options)*	
Short-Term Project Additional Thesis Research	**6**

*** Please note that in Stream 5 (Options) there are 6 ECTS credits referring to 2 courses (Additional Thesis Research and Short-Term Project). This means that students must earn 6 ECTS credits in total within the compulsory part for these elements, while the distribution of credits between them may vary depending on the student’s research trajectory. E.g.: you could take 3 ECTS credits for Additional Thesis Research and 3 ECTS credits for Short-Term Project or 6 ECTS credits for either of the courses. Do not forget to register in Canvas registration quiz.**

Let's discuss the elective part:



The list of the elective courses might be updated. So check Course Catalog ↗ before each registration and Drop/Add period.

You have elective:

36 ECTS credits in Stream 1 (STE)

Cluster Varieties and Supersymmetric Gauge Theories	6
Introduction to Two-Dimensional Conformal Field Theory	6
Integrable Systems of Classical Mechanics	6
Hamiltonian Mechanics	6
Universal Enveloping Algebras and Yangians	6
Topological Recursion	6
Supersymmetric Gauge Theories and Integrable Systems	6
Riemann Surfaces	
Characteristic Classes and Intersection Theory	6
Methods of Conformal Field Theory for Quantum Field Theory and String Theory	6
Integrable Many-Body Systems and Nonlinear Equations	6
Introduction to Quantum Field Theory	6
Geometry in Field Theory, Second Step	6
Additional Topics in Representation Theory	6
Quantum Field Theory I	6
Phase Transitions in the Percolation Model. Conformal Invariance of Critical Percolation	6
Phase Transitions via Reflection Positivity	6
Symmetric Functions and Hall-Littlewood Polynomials	6
Quantum Field Theory II	6
Phase Transitions in Systems with Continuous and Discrete Symmetries: Ising, Potts, XY and XYZ Models	6

6 ECTS credits in Stream 3 (E&I)

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Courses from Course Catalog	6

12 ECTS credits in Stream 5 (Options)

English Toolkit	3
Academic Writing Essentials	3
Nobel English for Academic Purposes	3
First Steps to Thesis in English	3
Master Your Thesis in English	3
Master Your Defense in English	3
Electives from Course Catalog	6

How to pick the elective course wisely?

1. Read course Syllabus which is available in Course Catalog. ↗
2. Keep in mind your workload per term. It must be between 12–18 ECTS credits.
3. Discuss the list of elective courses with your Research Advisor.
4. Check the course schedule, so the courses of your choice do not intersect.
5. Some courses you may plan for Year 1 or for Year 2. Number of ECTS credits under the specific term means that this course is recommended to be taken in this term, "X" means that you can still take the course later.

Cluster Varieties and Supersymmetric Gauge Theories	6	3	3					X	X		

Pay attention to: Term 1 registration



In Term 1 you have a compulsory 12-credit Research Seminar “Modern Problems of Mathematical Physics”. No need to register. You will be registered by default by the Education Department.

Research Seminar “Modern Problems of Mathematical Physics”	12	1,5	

So, in Term 1 you already have 1,5 compulsory ECTS credits.

In addition to this, in Term 1 you must receive at least 10,5 ECTS credits more in the elective part. So, you have to pick up a course of your choice and register for it. Course registration for Term 1 is available on 1-6 September.

Term 8

Term 8 is the final term of your educational program, so during it students are expected to work on their thesis only. For this reason make sure that all course workload is completed by the end of Term 7. In Term 8 you are allowed to take only courses related to your thesis.

Master Your Defense in English	3

Multi-term courses

How the workload is spread for a multi-term course?

The workload of a multi-term course is spread equally among the terms.



In the compulsory "Research & MSc Thesis Project" part you have a 12-credit multi-term Research Seminar "Modern Problems of Mathematical Physics" in Terms 1-8. Your workload will be 1,5 ECTS credit for each term for this course.

Research Seminar "Modern Problems of Mathematical Physics"	12	1,5	1,5		1,5	1,5		1,5	1,5		1,5	1,5

When should I register for a multi-term course?

In order to get ECTS credits for a multi-term course you have to attend the course during all the terms as per curriculum plan!

You can register for a multi-term course only before the first term when the course starts. You can drop this course only during the Drop/Add period of the first term when the course starts.

Electives from Course Catalog

Can I take a course which is not in my curriculum plan?



Yes, you can take a course which is not in your curriculum plan via “Electives from Course Catalog” educational element which is located in Stream 5 “Options” and “Extracurricular activities”.
However, keep in mind the following when registering for a course which is not in the curriculum plan:

- Course instructor has the right to limit the range of programs, students of which he/she is ready to take on the course. This info is in Syllabus, check it before registering;
- Such a course can be allocated only in Stream 5 “Options” or “Extracurricular activities” (NOT Stream 1 “STE”).

Why does “Electives from Course Catalog” appear in “Options” and “Extracurricular activities”?

This is done intentionally. So, you can take more courses from Course Catalog if you would like. Some will count in “Options”, some in “Extracurricular activities”.

E&I courses from Course Catalog

Where can I find all E&I courses?

You may find all E&I courses in Course Catalog ↗ on the website under the E&I filter. The course Syllabi are also in there.

Additional Thesis Research & Short-Term Project

What is the difference between “Additional Thesis Research” and “Short-Term Project” in terms of course content?



“Additional Thesis Research” is an additional research related to your Thesis, “Short-Term Project” is a research related to a project/research different from your thesis.

Moving the course from one Stream to another

Can I move a course from Stream 1 (STE) to Stream 5 (Options)?

Yes, you can easily do it. It might be relevant if you already have more credits in Stream 1 (STE) than it's needed.

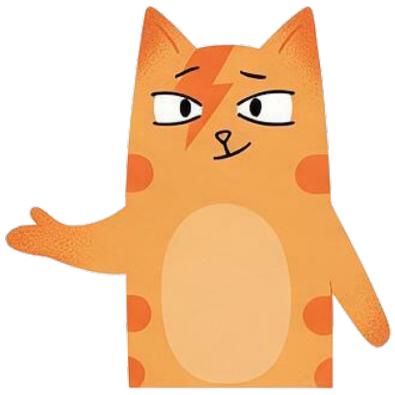
Can I move a course from Stream 5 (Options) to Stream 1 (STE)?

No, you can not move a course from Stream 5 (Options) to Stream 1 (STE) but you can move such a course to "Extracurricular activities".

Please inform the Education Department which courses need to be moved.

Low grade

I received a low grade for the course and I do not want to show it in Transcript, is it possible?



It’s not possible. In Transcript you will get all grades for all courses taken.

Can I retake the course if I get a low grade?

You can retake only a compulsory course if you get an “F” grade. With any other grade no course can be retaken.

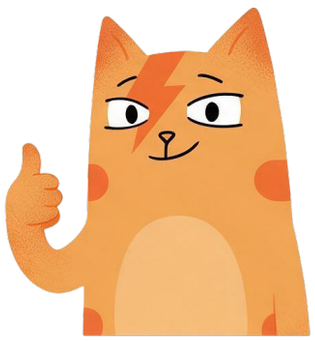
Course Schedule overlaps

I take two courses and the schedules of these courses overlap. What to do?

Please keep in mind that it is your responsibility to make sure you have no course overlaps. If the Education Department notices that there is an overlap in your schedule, the overlapping course will be dropped by our choice.

Free listener

Can I take a course in a free listener role?



Yes, you can but only with the course instructor's permission. If you get "ok" from the course instructor, inform the Education Department about your case by sending an email to education@skoltech.ru, copy the course instructor. Education will add you on a Canvas course page, so you have access to course materials. Keep in mind that the Course Instructor does not check the attendance, does not assess homework assignments, or other assignments for listeners.

ISP

What is ISP? Why does it have no credits in the curriculum plan?

Independent Study Period (ISP) is a special curriculum element, which lasts for 3 weeks in Winter Term (January) and consists of a variety of courses that help students to explore their interests beyond their main educational fields and make their academic learning truly interdisciplinary. Please note that ISP workload is counted in astronomical hours (not in ECTS credits). ISP is mandatory for MSc-1 students, so they must gain between 90 to 120 hours to get a "pass". To find out more on ISP, please follow the presentation (ISP 2026).

Other questions

I have some other questions on my education in Skoltech, where should I go?

Here are some contacts:

- Education Department office: E-R1-2064 (education@skoltech.ru)
- Program Director: Associate Professor Litvinov Alexey Viktorovich (a.litvinov@skoltech.ru)
- Program Coordinator and Manager: Senior Research Scientist Prokofev Vadim Vyacheslavovich (v.prokofev@skoltech.ru)

