

Draft Interview Questions –Students

Overview

The School of Physics and Advanced Materials is involved in an international project to enhance the experience of students in first year physics labs. As part of this project, we are talking to some students (randomly chosen) on a one-on-one basis to get their views on their lab experience in PAN. Your participation is voluntary and you can pull out of the interview at any time.

If you are happy to participate, could you sign this consent form before we begin.

Background

- Could you please tell me a little bit about your academic background (**keep this short**)
- What are your thoughts on the role and relevance of physics to your degree or career?
- Before you started the PAN lab program, I am curious about what you expected the lab program to be like? What did you think would happen in labs?

Views on PAN labs

- What do you see as the main aims of the PAN lab program? In your view, why is the lab program part of PAN?
- I wonder if you can tell me how you learn in PAN lab, the way you make sense of the tasks. Perhaps, you can give me a specific example of an instance or an experiment or **what do you do in the PAN lab?**
- Can you tell me some of the things that influence your learning experience in PAN labs? This could be anything like the actual lab/equipment/people (**Probing question**)
- What are some of the things that most challenges you in PAN labs? How do you think these can be overcome and do you have any suggestions for improving your lab experience

I would now like to hear your views on demonstrators and their role in your experience in PAN labs

Interaction between students and demonstrators

- What do you think is the role of a demonstrator in helping students learn in PAN labs?
- Can you describe to me some of the qualities of a good demonstrator? (**Open**)
- In what ways (s) did your PAN demonstrators help you in the Lab? Please give a specific example if you can.
- In your view, would it make any difference if the demonstrators were not physicists but had a different specialism, such as a medical science or environmental student?
- Is there anything else you would like to raise regarding your experiences with demonstrators (either principal or assistant or both) in PAN labs?

General closing