

Physics Study Centre (PSC) Tutoring: *Application*

Overview of the Physics Study Centre

Physics Study Centre Tutoring is a program offered to students in first-year physics. It aims to support students with (i) a quiet and active environment to interact with colleagues in their class, and (ii) direct access to volunteer physics tutors who have excelled in first-year physics. The program is open to students in PHYA10/PHYA11/PHYA21/PHYA22. The students in these courses have historically seen significant pitfalls when faced with the task of reading the problem, understanding what is being asked, and then developing the formal step-by-step procedure to tackle the problem using the tools and concepts discussed in the classroom. Further, algebraic manipulations and certain applications of the concepts in the course have also been a recurring area of difficulty. PSC Tutoring serves to help these individuals.

Our goal is to enhance student learning, provide valuable assistance, and guide those needing help in the right direction so that they can master the topics of physics at the university level.

Overview of Position

You, the mentor, play a fundamental role in the success of the program. Here are the responsibilities of the position:

- I. Will foster the improvement and growth of the student's capability of mastering concepts of PHYA10/11/21/22
- II. Will commit to guiding students to the answer rather than simply giving the solutions;
- III. Will respect the program's and university's policy on Academic Integrity
- IV. Will commit to the position as decided by the hiring committee. Applicants must be aware that they are required to tutor for a minimum of **3 hours a week**, every week, in the Centre for at least a semester.
- V. Eligible for CCR

Requirements to be a PSC Tutor

PSC has flexible requirements to be a Tutor. *You **are not** required to be in the physics department to be a Tutor.* Requirements include:

- I. Attained a strong mark in first-year physics. We do not have an exact cut-off range; generally, we are expecting tutors with a mark above 75%. A demonstration of strong teaching/communication abilities and a concrete understanding of physics content during the interviews will greatly help tutors.
- II. Completion of either PHYA10 and PHYA21 **OR** PHYA11 and PHYA22. If you have completed just one first-year physics course, then please specify this information in your application.
- III. Demonstrating an eagerness to teach and help students

Application Process

All applicants will go through a process of checks to assure the quality of tutors. The process will proceed in this manner:

- I. Initial screening to check for
 - a. Relevant teaching experience
 - b. Strong marks in first-year physics
- II. Interview with the EPSA Physics Rep. and one senior executive member

The Interview

The interview aims to evaluate a potential Tutor on two levels: (i) their overall personality and views of the program, and (ii) their ability to teach first-year physics. During the first part, candidates will be asked questions that evaluate their view of the PSC program, core principles, and how true the person will stay to the task. Candidates are asked to read the EPSA Constitution, which may be found on the EPSA website: <https://www.myepsa.ca/>.

During the second part, candidates will be engaged in a small role-playing situation where they will be given a simple first-year physics problem and they will be required to explain and teach a student. The problem **is not** meant to be challenging, but rather a typical type of problem they may encounter as a tutor. The interviewers will be looking for the candidate's ability to facilitate the student to the answer without directly giving the solution.

Submitting the Application

Your Application includes:

- I. A Copy of Your Transcript from PHYA10/11/21/22 - you can blank out the other marks if you wish. (Official transcript **not** required; ROSI copy will suffice)
- II. Your Timetable (Fall & Winter)
- III. Your Updated Resume or CV (please be sure to specify any teaching experience)
- IV. Complete the *PSC Tutoring: Personal Statement* (see last page of this document)

NOTE: Applications missing any of the above items or not following the requirements are ineligible and will not be considered.

Name:

Program:

Student Number:

Phone Number:

Email (which will be used to contact you):

Please select the courses you are interested in tutoring for and the semesters you are able to tutor (check off all that are applicable):

- PHYA10**
- PHYA11**
- PHYA21**
- PHYA22**

Why would you like to be a tutor? What distinct qualities distinguish you from others? (50-250 words)

Please describe your most recent tutoring experience. (50-250 words)

The applications are due by Septembre 25th, at 11:59 PM sharp. They must be e-mailed to vpacademics@myepsa.ca. Physical copies will not be accepted.