

CARLETON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

Cyclical Review of the Ottawa-Carleton Graduate Programs in Physics: MSc and PhD

Executive Summary and Final Assessment

This Executive Summary and Final Assessment Report of the cyclical review of the MSc and PhD programs offered by the Ottawa-Carleton Institute for Physics (OCIP), a joint institute of the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, are provided pursuant to articles 4.2.5 - 4.2.6 of the provincial Quality Assurance Framework and articles 6.7 and 6.8 of the *Institutional Quality Assurance Process for the Joint Graduate Programs of Carleton University and University of Ottawa*.

CARLETON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

Examen cyclique des programmes d'études supérieures de l'Université d'Ottawa et de l'Université Carleton en physique

Rapport d'évaluation finale et sommaire

Le présent Rapport final et sommaire de l'examen cyclique des programmes de M.Sc. et de doctorat offerts par l'Institut de physique d'Ottawa-Carleton (IPOC), un institut conjoint de l'Université d'Ottawa et de l'Université Carleton, est présenté conformément aux articles 4.2.5 et 4.2.6 du cadre provincial d'assurance de la qualité et des articles 6.7 et 6.8 du Protocole institutionnel d'assurance de la qualité (PIAQ) pour les programmes conjoints d'études supérieures de l'Université Carleton et de l'Université d'Ottawa.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ottawa-Carleton Institute for Physics, established in 1983, combines the graduate education strengths of the physics departments of the University of Ottawa and Carleton University into programs with five fields of study: particle, medical, condensed matter, biological, and photonics.

As a consequence of the review, the programs were classified as being of **good quality**.

The external reviewers, who submitted their report in May 2014, were impressed by the strength of the research being conducted at the OCIP, and its positive influence on graduate education, writing: “the OCIP has a good focus, with outstanding researchers in each university, crucial to the running of a joint program. It is apparent that specialists in the fields in each institute have designed the courses.” The reviewers added: “courses being offered by the two universities appear well-documented and tuned to the fields of the respective universities.” The reviewers judged the research labs as “outstanding in terms of equipment, space, and student population”, and observed that “the methods used to assess student achievement of the defined learning outcomes and degree-level expectations are appropriate and in place.” The external reviewers also noted in their report that “the program has the potential to be one of the most innovative and advanced in operations and delivery of education and research.”

The review process identified three areas for program enhancement:

1. OCIP infrastructure
2. Program regulations and criteria
3. Student engagement and support

Moreover, it is recommended that in preparation for the next cyclical review, the Institute continue to review the joint nature of the program with reference to the document approved by the senates of both universities entitled: *Criteria for Evaluating the Extent and Level of Collaboration in Joint Graduate Programs between Carleton University and the University of Ottawa*.