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Evolution of the 3rd Year Major Project at the University of the Witwatersrand

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The Major Project has been an important component of the 3rd Year Physics curriculum at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) for many decades. It has proven very popular with the students and has allowed academic staff to identify students with research potential as early as the final year undergraduate level. Student numbers have increased dramatically since 2015, and in 2018 the major project underwent a transformation, and since then students have completed an Independent Research Essay (IRE) under supervision of a member of the academic staff, with student teaching assistants providing support. The IRE may be used to inculcate or enhance essential skills for budding scientists, be they enrolled students or graduate student tutors.

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