

Abstract Submitted
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**2020 Introduction to Fusion Energy and Plasma Physics Course:
A Silver-Lining in a Pandemic** A. DOMINGUEZ, D. ORTIZ, O. MERRILL,
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory — Every year since 1993, PPPL has hosted
a week-long introduction to plasma physics course for the undergraduate interns
at the lab. The participants have been, historically, undergraduate interns doing
research at PPPL and General Atomics and have numbered less than 100. Starting
in 2015, the courses have been web-streamed live and archived for future view in
a dedicated website: suli.pppl.gov, but there have always been components of the
course that only local students could take advantage of, e.g. a lab tour, an ex-
perimental session, and a networking session with PPPL graduate students. With
the COVID-19 pandemic and the laboratory in curtailment, we have adapted the
course to be fully remote. This new format has reduced the barrier of entry for
both speakers and participants and has resulted in an expanded course with more
than 600 participants and 36 speakers (up from 15). In this presentation, we will
highlight the challenges of the new format as well as the unique opportunities that
it has presented to PPPL and the community as a whole.

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