ASTROPHYSICS BSc / UCAS CODE: F510
2018 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus/physics
Astrophysics makes demands across a broad frontier of technologies: materials science, optics and electronics. This three-year programme teaches students to apply their knowledge of physics to astronomical observation and to the interpretation of the data and images obtained.

**Key information**

**Programme starts**  
September 2018

**Location**  
London, Bloomsbury

**Degree benefits**

- The programme is accredited by the Institute of Physics (IOP) and includes the very latest developments and discoveries in the field, based on our highly rated research.
- Collaborative links with both industry and international research laboratories provide insight into the practical application of your studies.
- You will undertake practical work at UCL’s University of London Observatory (ULO) and benefit from our close association with the Royal Astronomical Society.

**Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014**

The Research Excellence Framework, or REF, is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. The 2014 REF was carried out by the UK’s higher education funding bodies, and the results used to allocate research funding from 2015/16.

- 90% rated 4* (‘world-leading’) or 3* (‘internationally excellent’)

Learn more about the scope of UCL’s research, and browse case studies, on our [Research Impact website](#).

**Accreditation**

This programme is accredited by the Institute of Physics. Holders of accredited degrees can follow a route to Institute of Physics membership and the Chartered Physicist (CPhys) professional qualification. Graduates of accredited Integrated Master’s (MPhys or MSci) degrees have fulfilled the educational requirements for CPhys status, while graduates of accredited Bachelor’s (BSc) degrees have partially fulfilled these requirements.

**Degree structure**

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 0.5 or 1.0 credits, adding up to a total of 4.0 credits for the year. Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year. A 1.0 credit is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

Core modules in the first two years provide a grounding in mathematics and classical and quantum physics. You will also undertake modules which build up an increasing exposure to topics in astronomy and astrophysics. This starts in the first year with core modules in Physics of the Universe and Practical Astronomy. This is followed in the second year by Astrophysical Processes: Nebulae to Stars and Practical Astrophysics, leading into core third-year modules in Interstellar Physics, Physical Cosmology, and Astronomical Spectroscopy. The third year also provides for optional modules to further enhance and enrich your knowledge of astrophysics topics.

This programme is offered both as a three-year BSc and a four-year MSci, with common structures and subjects for the first two years. However, the additional fourth year of the MSci programme allows for a greater depth of study and we recommend you apply for an MSci initially, as this keeps more options open.

**YEAR ONE**

**Core or compulsory module(s)**

// Classical Mechanics
// Mathematical Methods I
// Mathematical Methods II
// Practical Skills 1A
// Practical Skills 1C
// Physics of the Universe
// Thermal Physics
// Waves, Optics and Acoustics

**Optional modules**

- All first-year modules are compulsory.

**YEAR TWO**

**Core or compulsory module(s)**

// Astrophysical Processes: Nebulae to Stars
// Electricity and Magnetism
// Mathematical Methods III
// Physics of the Solar System
// Practical Astrophysics 2A
// Quantum Physics
// Statistical Thermodynamics

**Optional modules**

- One optional module from the following list:
  - Astrobiology
  - Environmental Physics
  - Mathematics for Physics and Astronomy
**Your learning**

Teaching is delivered through lectures, laboratory (and as appropriate, observatory) practical sessions, and supervised problem-solving tutorials. These tutorials are designed to deal with lecture-based questions, enlarge on topics addressed in lectures, and allow clarification and in-depth discussion of new concepts.

**Assessment**

Assessment will normally involve end-of-year examinations, and an element of assessed coursework. For practical work you will be continuously assessed.

**Your career**

Your scientific training will equip you with an understanding of mathematics, and of physical principles and techniques, as well as transferable skills in analysis, rational argument and innovative problem solving. Surveys by the IOP indicate that physicists’ versatility is welcomed by a wider range of professions than any other subject.

Around half our graduates choose to pursue further study for an MSc or PhD. A PhD opens up the possibility of an academic or research career in a university or research institute. Alternatively, like many of our graduates, you may consider employment in research, design, development, computing, finance, marketing and teaching, among others.

First career destinations of recent graduates (2013-2015) of Astrophysics programmes at UCL include:

// Marketing Analyst, Dollar Financial UK
// Project Controller, Network Research & Marketing Ltd
// Technical Consultant, ORC International
// Research Assistant, University of Malaya
// Full-time student, MSc in Astrophysics at Uppsala Universitet (Uppsala University)

Data taken from the ‘Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education’ survey undertaken by HESA looking at the destinations of UK and EU students in the 2013-2015 graduating cohorts six months after graduation.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Grades
AAA
Subjects
Mathematics and Physics required.

GCSE
English Language and Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

IB DIPLOMA
Points
38 overall.
Subjects
A total of 18 points in three higher level subjects including Mathematics and Physics at grade 6, with no score below 5.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS
UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES (International foundation courses)
The Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

Tuition Fees
The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2018/19 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2018/19 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2018/19)
// Overseas: £25,960 (2018/19)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

Funding
Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

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EU referendum
For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum

Disclaimer
This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Undergraduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus