Astrophysics MSci

This four-year programme offers an additional year of study on top of the Astrophysics BSc, during which students have the opportunity to specialise further by taking advanced optional modules, and undertaking a research project.

**Key information**

**Programme starts**
September 2021

**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 the UCL (UCLO) and benefit from our close association with the Royal Astronomical Society.

**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 15 or 30 credits, adding up to a total of 120 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 30-credit module is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

Compulsory 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 compulsory modules in Physics of the Universe and Practical Astronomy.

This is followed in the second year by Astrophysical Processes 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.

The fourth year comprises a compulsory research project in astrophysics, and a number of optional modules, generally chosen from subjects in the relevant degree speciality. A wide range of modules is available, usually some taught by staff from other University of London colleges.

Upon successful completion of 480 credits, you will be awarded a MSci (Hons) in Astrophysics.

Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

**YEAR ONE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compulsory module(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>// Year 1: All first-year modules are compulsory. - 120 credits at Level 4 in total</td>
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<tr>
<td>// PHAS0003 Practical Skills 1A (Astronomy) (Level 4) 15 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>// PHAS0004 Atoms, Stars and the Universe (Level 4) 15 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>// PHAS0005 Waves, Optics and Acoustics (Level 4) 15 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>// PHAS0006 Thermal Physics and the Properties of Matter (level 4) 15 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>// PHAS0007 Practical Physics and Computing 1 (Level 4) 15 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>// PHAS0002 Mathematical Methods I (Level 4) 15 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>// PHAS0009 Mathematical Methods II (Level 4) 15 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>// PHAS0010 Classical Mechanics (Level 4) 15 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>// PHAS0017 Developing Effective Communications 1 (non-credit, but will appear in student's transcript)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Optional modules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>// All first-year modules are compulsory.</td>
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</table>
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.

Accessibility

Details of the accessibility of UCL buildings can be obtained from AccessAble. Further information can also be obtained from the UCL Student Support & Wellbeing team.

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 Institute of Physics 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.

Your application

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

In addition to the subjects and grades specified in the qualifying examinations, we are also looking for evidence of self-motivation and an enthusiastic interest in the subject. This may be demonstrated through paid or voluntary work experience, academic project work, or your interests and hobbies beyond the school curriculum.

Your application will be carefully assessed based on your UCAS form and reference. If you are made an offer, you will be invited to a Physics Offer Holder’s Day. This will include presentations, a tour of facilities and an opportunity to meet current students and staff members. Attendance is strongly recommended as we cannot provide private tours of the department at the moment.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: AAA. 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.

Contextual Offer: AAB. A in 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
Standard Offer: 38 points. A total of 18 points in three higher level subjects including Mathematics and Physics at grade 6, with no score below 5.
Contextual Offer: 36 points. A total of 17 points in three higher level subjects including Mathematics and Physics at grade 6, with no score below 5.

CONTEXTUAL OFFERS - ACCESS UCL SCHEME
As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus.

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)
UCL 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 2021/22 academic year. The UK fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2021/22 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK: £9,250 (2021/22)
// Overseas: £31,200 (2021/22)

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

ADDITIONAL COSTS
You will require the approved model of calculator for use in exams. Currently this is either the Casio FX-85GT X or Casio FX-83GT X, which can be purchased for around £11 - £15. For details please see the UCL examinations guide. You may also be required to purchase books, stationery, printing, thesis binding and photocopying.

A guide including rough estimates for these and other living expenses is included on the UCL Fees and funding pages. If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc., please get in touch with the relevant departmental contact (details given on this page).

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.

CONTACT
Professor Philip Jones
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Telephone: Physics and Astronomy

UK withdrawal from the EU
For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s withdrawal from the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit.