Courses

**Single Honours**
- **BSc Physics**
  - three years F300
- **BSc Physics with Astrophysics**
  - three years F3F5
- **BSc Physics with a Preliminary Year of Study**
  - four years F308
- **MSci Physics**
  - four years F303
- **MSci Physics with Astrophysics**
  - four years F3FM
- **MSci Physics with Industrial Experience**
  - four years F305
- **MSci Physics with Innovation**
  - four years F306
- **MSci Physics with International Experience**
  - four years F307
- **MSci Physics with Study in Continental Europe**
  - four years F304
- **MSci Theoretical Physics**
  - four years F340

**Joint Honours**
- **BSc Mathematics and Physics**
  - three years GFD3
- **BSc Physics and Philosophy**
  - three years FV35
- **MSci Mathematics and Physics**
  - four years GFC3
- **MSci Physics and Philosophy**
  - four years FVH5

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**Why study physics at Bristol?**

Physics at Bristol is delivered in a ground-breaking research environment where you will learn from experts bringing their latest work into the teaching lab. This means your lectures might be with a particle physicist analysing the latest data from CERN’s Large Hadron Collider, or with an astrophysicist looking at data from the Hubble Space Telescope.

Our strong links with industry leaders in communications, IT, defence and energy offer you exciting opportunities for a year in industry or final-year projects. Recent industry partners include Bristol Zoo, Siemens, Sellafield and The Fat Duck restaurant. We focus on your future during your course, with physics-specific employability sessions giving you valuable experience in presentation, interviews and networking.

We have an international reputation for producing notable innovators, such as Nobel laureates Professor Cecil Powell and Sir Nevill Francis Mott. Our many current pioneers include Professor Sir Michael Berry, a theoretical physicist investigating new frontiers in waves and chaos theory; Professor Sandu Popescu, who designed the first teleportation experiment; Dr Zoe Leinhardt, a computational astrophysicist researching the formation of planets and small bodies; and Dr Annela Seddon, a nanophysicist investigating the fabrication of materials on the nanoscale.

Our students describe the environment in Bristol as friendly and supportive. You will benefit from top-class facilities, including our £7 million undergraduate teaching labs, a six-metre radio telescope for astrophysics research and a high-performance supercomputer. We support your learning with extensive online resources, group study spaces and recorded lectures.

'It’s great that we have so many laboratory hours, as you gain technical skills that you can apply to all kinds of things, both within and outside the course. The staff are really supportive, helping with things like a mock interview for my industrial placement. A physics degree opens up so many career options, from engineering to law, so you have plenty of time to decide on your future.'

Rawia (BSc Physics)

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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2018). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University’s website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study), for the latest updates.
Physics is an exciting intellectual challenge. Key features of a Bristol Physics degree are flexibility and choice. You can normally transfer between courses in the first two years, and a range of interesting options in the final year means you can specialise in your chosen field or take a more general approach. You might choose to spend time working in industry on placement or on a project, or perfect your language skills with a year at a partner university abroad.

Our degree courses are challenging and designed to develop your abilities, encouraging you to become a critical thinker. We take a rigorous approach to problem solving, teamwork, experiments and communication skills, and you will gain expertise in handling and interpreting numerical information.

As well as theoretical knowledge, Bristol physics graduates have excellent practical skills gained from time spent designing and developing experiments in our large, bright, purpose-built teaching laboratory.

What will you study?

Teaching formats include large lectures, individual computational work and laboratory work in pairs, as well as tutorials and workshops in the first year. In subsequent years, workshops and problem classes help to consolidate your learning. Assessment is usually by written examinations, assignments and, for computational and lab work, written reports and presentations.

In your final year you could embark on a research project as part of a research group specialising in: condensed matter, materials and devices; astrophysics and particle physics; materials at the interface of light and matter, including biological, soft and complex matter, nanophotonics and nanophysics; theoretical physics; or quantum foundations and technologies.

We invite guest lecturers to share their research expertise with students and staff in talks and seminars, and we have recently welcomed eminent scholars from around the world, including the USA, Switzerland, China, Denmark, Australia, Canada, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Germany and the UK. You can also share your enthusiasm for science and develop your communication skills through our programme of Discover Science days and school visits.

Our established degrees are accredited by the Institute of Physics, who also awarded us Juno status in recognition of our good practice towards increasing the representation of women in physics. The physics students’ society, Chaos, organises social and physics-based events and runs a mentoring scheme for new students in which a second- or third-year ‘parent’ will help you settle in and provide support.

“Not only did I have the opportunity to study many areas of physics, I learned how research into physics is done first hand.”

Rosie (MSci Physics), now a PhD student researching quantum field theory analogues in non-linear optics.
Careers and graduate destinations

Bristol physics graduates have excellent employment prospects. The problem-solving, teamwork, experimental design and communication skills our students acquire are rated highly by graduate employers.

Our graduates are highly sought after and find employment in physics and a whole spectrum of other careers, from filmmaking and journalism to marketing and the civil service. Recent graduate destinations include actuarial work, operational research, government statistical and security services, engineering, management consultancy, IT, investment banking, financial modelling, accountancy and teaching.

Around half of our MSci students go on to a higher degree in physics or a related discipline, which can lead to a career in research or teaching. Higher degrees taken by our graduates in 2015/16 included PhDs in plasma physics and atomic and molecular physics, and an MRes in integrated photonics and electronics.

Find out more about the destinations of Bristol physics graduates at bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired/bristol-graduates/physics.

Making your application

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).

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Typical offer for BSc Physics*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-physics for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels A*AA (contextual AAB†) including A*A (contextual AA†) in Mathematics and Physics (in any order).

IB Diploma 38 points overall (contextual 34†) with 18 at Higher Level (contextual 17†), including 6, 6 at Higher Level in Mathematics and Physics.

English Language profile C††

GCSEs Standard literacy requirement (C in GCSE English or equivalent).

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.
Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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Photography
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