

Course structure

Our different degree programmes follow a broadly common structure. The first year is split between physics, maths and - unless your degree requires specific units - a choice of optional units.

- Most of the core material is covered in the first and second years; a thorough grounding for a range of options in the final years.
- Importantly, you work in the laboratory throughout each year, culminating in a major final year project, or equivalent.
- Course structures vary across programmes. Here is an example:



Tom Hulme, BSc Physics

After Bristol, Tom worked in race and road cars, was a Harvard MBA and Design Director at IDEO London and is now at GV (the venture capital investment arm of Alphabet Inc.)

Bristol ‘...gave me a great analytical approach and a wide variety of fascinating classes.’

Single Honours Physics

First year

- The majority of your time studying core physics and mathematics. This includes lectures, laboratory work, tutorials and workshops.
- Choose an option from units in subjects including astrophysics, maths, chemistry, computing, sustainability, languages and philosophy.

Second year

- BSc and MSci courses are identical until the end of the second year.
- Core work includes laboratory work and computing.
- Choose from options in advanced mathematical physics, or particle physics and cosmology.

Third year

- Common to both BSc and MSci are core physics lecture courses and a range of options.
- BSc students work on one of:
 - A final year project with a partner.
 - In a group solving a real world industry problem.
 - A dissertation.
 - The Physics Education unit, with a placement in a local school.
- MSci students hone their laboratory, computing and practical skills further.

Fourth year

- Half of the MSci final year is usually made up of an independent research project.
- Specialist lecture courses complement your hands-on training.