UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

Careers and Employability Service

What can I do with my degree?

Physics and Astronomy

Welcome:

We have developed this recourse pack to help you research specific job sectors which may be of particular interest to Physics and Astronomy students.

- **Prospects.ac.uk** - Options with Physics, as well as pages on: Your skills, job options, career areas, further study, what next, case studies, contacts and job search sites.
- **Targetjobs** – What can I do with a Physics Degree?
- **IOP** – Find out where Physics can take you
- **Careers and your Future** - on the School of Physics and Astronomy website

SKILLS:

Employers see a physics qualification as an indication of someone who will immediately be an asset to the organisation. This is because physics requires the following attributes:

- A logical and numerate mind
- The ability to solve problems
- Communication skills, developed through report-writing and presentations
- Computing and practical skills
- Teamwork and flexibility (essential for lab work and projects)

Other key skills include the ability to:

- Analyse and assess information and data
- Apply numeracy, communication and information technology skills efficiently
- Use effective interpersonal and team working skills including demonstrating an appreciation of different points of view
- Self-manage, think independently, set tasks and solve problems.

Employment Activities within your degree:

The Physics and Astronomy department are members of the **South East Physics Network,** which are focussed on providing you industry led presentations, seminars and discussion forums on job searching techniques and CV advice.

Your degree programme will provide you links to industry to find out about the latest placement and graduate vacancies in the sector, as well as providing you access to arranged-visits to local employers. Employers also sponsor final year projects and research collaborations within the department. In previous years students have received bursaries for summer placements and hosts have included NPL, QinetiQ and Symetrica.

Tutors and lecturers also ensure they are up to date with employment within the sector and receive training on activities such as writing you a reference for a future employer.

A number of work experience opportunities are also offered by the UoS Careers and Employability Service, in addition to a variety of events, tailored workshops and presentations to provide advice and support on how to succeed within the sector. For more information and guidance please go to the Careers Service website.

Employment:

Physics and Astronomy graduates enter a very wide range of careers - both scientific and non-scientific. The following examples give a sense of the range of jobs Southampton graduates have gone into over recent years. Data has been collected from graduates completing the Graduate Outcomes survey 15 months after graduation and from alumni information.

- Engineering services engineer
- Accountant
- Business support officer
- Clinical scientist
- ICT technician
- Offshore geophysical engineer
- Project physicist
- Radiation detection specialist
- Research associate
- Research scientist
- Residual radiation analyst
- Systems engineer
- Trainee accounts assistant
- Trainee medical physicist

Finding Job Vacancies:

As a graduate from Physics and Astronomy you can go into a wide range of occupations, some open to all graduates, and some particularly relevant to your degree. Information and advice about how to find out about employment opportunities is on the **Prospects** website.

When applying for vacancies you may need support in constructing a CV, filling out an Application Form, drafting a Cover Letter or preparing for Interview. We offer support on all of these areas via our **Job Application Resources webpages**

Physics-related Jobs and Internships:

The information below can be used to find job vacancies or industrial connections related to your programme, and/or to build understanding of relevant roles. Consider exploring job opportunities, career advice sites and associations/societies related to your degree programme or interests. Alongside this list make the most of the opportunities provided by the University to meet and network with employers and alumni from Physics and Astronomy and learn from their experiences.

Science-related vacancies:

Physics.org
Includes a careers section listing many of the areas that physics graduates can get into

Gradcracker

Physics World Jobs

Institution of Engineering and Technology
Search job vacancies

Cern Courir
Search job postings for academic and industrial positions worldwide

New Scientist
Search for jobs linked with your subject of study

Earthworks
Opportunities in oil, energy, mining, environmental
science, meteorology, hydrology, renewable energy and related subjects

Naturejobs
Science jobs recruitment website

NHS Careers

Space Careers
Career opportunities in the space industry

Academic Posts

Jobs in the Academic Community
Mainly academic posts for postgraduates

Recruitment agencies focussing on the Science sector:

Matchtech
A large recruitment agency specialising in science and engineering

ECM
High-tech recruitment specialists

SRG
Specialist scientific recruitment

Carbon60
Recruitment agency for avionics, telecoms, air traffic and defence

Other vacancies:

Prospects
Search job vacancies by job category

TARGETjobs

Graduate jobs, schemes and internships

Postgraduate Study and Research:

Approximately half of graduates from Physics and Astronomy pursue **further study** opportunities following completion of an undergraduate programme.

For many people a PhD provides an important part of developing a career in science. You will generally require a good 2:1 in your first degree and will need to demonstrate the ability to sustain interest in your research topic for 3 to 4 years. Further information is available from the **Physics and Astronomy website**.

PhD:

University of Southampton

University of Cambridge

University College London

University of Oxford

University of Liverpool

University of Bristol

MSc:

Aeronautical Engineering - Cranfield University
Mechanical Engineering - City University
Physics - Imperial College
Hospital and Health Service Management - University of Birmingham

PGCE - Secondary University of Exeter, University of Southampton

Aircraft Pilot training UK Private Institution

Find a postgraduate course:

Prospects
General information and database of postgraduate programmes

Postgrad
General information and database of postgraduate programmes.

Findaphd.com
Postgraduate research degrees PhD studentships & scholarships

Findamasters.com
A database of taught and research Masters courses

Research councils:

Medical Research Council

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

International opportunities:

Fulbright Commission
Their Educational Advisory Service - based in London - provides information and advice on undergraduate and postgraduate study in the USA

IDP Education
Find a course in the USA, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand

World study
Information and advice on study around the world.