

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2024/25

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Physics with Astrophysics BSc (Hons) Physics with Astrophysics with International Year (see Annex for details) BSc (Hons) Physics with Astrophysics with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	The UK Institute of Physics (IoP) has accredited this programme until 30th March 2027. For further details see the section on Accreditation below.
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £9,250*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £20,700**</p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p> <p>The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee</p>

Please note that this document applies to Level 6 (Year 3) students only in 2026/27.

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found

at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

*** These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>*

2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on this subject. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

3. Overview of the Programme

Physics and Astrophysics are fundamental, curiosity-driven science subjects that have applications and make an enormous contribution to other areas of science and a range of industries such as power, nuclear, electronics, IT, data-mining, telecommunications, medical, pharmaceutical and food technology.

The broad educational aims of this programme are informed by the QAA Benchmark Statement for Physics. The programme aims to provide a thorough education in the core areas of physics (as defined by the Institute of Physics [IoP] accreditation standards), to extend and apply this subject knowledge to the arena of Astrophysics and to study more advanced topics, informed by the research interests of staff, together with providing a theoretical and practical understanding of the analytical, experimental and computational techniques that are of particular importance to physics graduates. Successful graduates will have achieved a demonstrable understanding of the fundamentals of physics and astrophysics, and be able to apply this knowledge to solve problems, plan investigations, analyse results and to report and present their work in ways described in more detail below.

On successful completion of the Physics with Astrophysics programme at Keele, students will be equally qualified and well prepared for postgraduate studies or for graduate level employment in a wide variety of industrial sectors. Tuition will be based on a modular system with varied modes of delivery, ranging from traditional lectures through to laboratory work, problem-solving classes and tutorials in smaller groups. Mathematics and computing form important parts of the programme and are taught both within dedicated modules and synoptically throughout the programme by staff in the Physics/Astrophysics department. A mixed set of assessment modalities include examination, report-writing, presentations, problem sheets, laboratory work, essays, dissertations and vivas, with an overall balance of approximately 50% examination and 50% continually assessed, dependent on the exact module diet.

Whilst the combined honours Physics and Astrophysics programmes focus almost exclusively on the IoP "core curriculum" in years 1 and 2, the Single Honours Physics with Astrophysics programme goes beyond this in terms of breadth and depth. The core of Astrophysics (Astronomy, Stellar Physics, Galaxies and Cosmology) are included and there is an additional emphasis on Mathematics, Statistics and Computing and the application of Physics/Astrophysics to solving problems; further opportunities for both individual and team practical work and an individual dissertation in year 3.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- achieve a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of Physics and Astrophysics, and be able to apply this knowledge and understanding to solving problems;
- develop competence in mathematical, statistical and numerical techniques and employ these to solve physical problems;
- develop competence in laboratory activities and computer programming by the end of year 2 and undertake project work both individually and within a team by the end of year 3;
- acquire the skills required to assimilate new knowledge and to communicate your work and ideas in a variety of formats;
- acquire a range of subject-specific skills including how to formulate and tackle problems in Physics/Astrophysics; how to plan, manage, execute and report the results of an investigation; how to use mathematics to describe the physical world; and how to deploy these skills to tackle issues within the subject;
- acquire a range of cognitive, generic and transferable skills including problem-solving skills, investigative skills, analytic skills, communication skills, IT skills, time management skills and interpersonal skills.

Employability

The programme will enable you to:

- engage in independent learning, and to make use of textbooks, research papers and other learning resources;
- critically analyse data, understand statistical information and to use information responsibly and ethically;
- plan projects and investigations, and perform an evaluation of the possible costs and benefits of a course of action;
- develop a range of technical and transferable skills which would enable entry to employment across a range of professions that place high value on the analytical, computational, statistical and experimental skills gained within a Physics with Astrophysics degree programme and value the ability to communicate complex ideas and information to a variety of audiences.

5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Intellectual skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

The subject knowledge in the Single Honours Physics with Astrophysics programme is underpinned by a core Physics curriculum as set out by the Institute of Physics and includes the fundamentals of classical and quantum mechanics, electromagnetism, optics, thermodynamics, solid state, atomic and nuclear physics, together with the mathematics that is used to describe them. The programme goes beyond this to explore fundamental topics in Astrophysics - stellar structure, galaxies and cosmology. There is further work in mathematics, computational and statistical techniques and the applications of these in addressing (astro)physical problems.

Successful students will be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge of the fundamental principles of (Astro)physics and competence in applying these principles to diverse areas of the subject;
- the ability to solve problems in (Astro)physics using appropriate mathematical and computational tools including the ability to make sensible approximations;
- the ability to design, execute, and analyse critically, an experiment or investigation and draw valid conclusions;
- the ability to estimate levels of uncertainty in their results, compare their results with expected outcomes, theoretical predictions or published data, and evaluate the significance of their results in this context;
- the development of a wider knowledge and understanding of advanced topics and their applications, and the acquisition of skills in the critical reading and understanding of published work in (Astro)Physics.

Subject specific skills

Successful students will have:

- the ability to work safely in a laboratory or observatory, and a knowledge and awareness of standard safety procedures;
- a sound familiarity with laboratory/astronomical apparatus and techniques;
- competency in the use of appropriate IT packages/systems for the analysis of data and the retrieval of information;
- an ability in numerical manipulation and estimation, statistical interpretation and the ability to present and interpret information graphically;
- an ability to use mathematical analysis and computational techniques to model physical behaviour;
- an ability to research, record and communicate scientific information, in particular through clear and accurate scientific reports and a dissertation;
- an ability to question, learn and assimilate knowledge and to evolve their views of the world in response to that new knowledge;
- an ability to contribute through research to the development of knowledge in (Astro)physics;
- an ability to acquire knowledge and understanding of science themselves, and to work productively on scientific problems on an individual basis or in a team.

Intellectual skills

Successful students will be able to:

- analyse and solve problems;
- evaluate evidence and make critical judgements;
- interpret and critique text;
- interpret and critique mathematical and numerical information;
- abstract and synthesise information;
- develop a reasoned argument;
- assess contrasting theories, explanations and policies on the basis of evidence;
- take responsibility for their own learning and critique that learning.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- manage their own learning and to make appropriate use of textbooks, research-based materials and other learning resources;
- find information and make responsible use of it;
- make effective written and oral presentations;
- work with numerical and statistical data;
- make sensible estimates;
- evaluate the costs and benefits of their actions;
- work effectively with a variety of types of Information Technology;
- formulate a problem and solve it using computational methods;
- plan, manage, execute and report an investigation;
- learn and gain understanding and to pass on that understanding to others;
- work effectively both as an individual and as part of a team;
- sustain motivation for an extended period of time;
- recognise their responsibilities as an individual and as part of a team or an organisation.

Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social, environmental and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

6. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- Lectures;
- Tutorials;
- Laboratory and Observatory classes;
- Computational laboratory classes;
- Exercise/problem-solving classes;
- Individual progress interviews;
- Problem sheet assignments;
- Group and individual projects;
- Directed reading and independent study;
- Literature research tasks;
- Use of e-learning/the Keele Learning Environment (KLE).

In a typical week, a student would expect to be engaged in the majority of these activities. Students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty and any special learning needs they may have with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

Much of the core knowledge in Physics/Astrophysics is described and explained in lectures. These lectures also map out the academic content and are used to provide examples and case studies. The application of this knowledge is developed in tutorials and problem classes, where there is a greater emphasis on co-operative learning in a more informal setting. Laboratory work, observatory sessions and computational classes are designed to reinforce material covered in lectures, but more importantly to foster the many transferable skills discussed in section 4. Students will also gain experience of planning and performing investigations and

reporting on them both individually and as part of a team.

All students are also expected to engage in independent learning, with regular directed reading, literature research and assessed problem sheets. In this way they will advance their own understanding but also develop their critical abilities and capabilities for discrimination between different sources of information, the merits of different theories and ideas etc. Students will be expected to manage their time against known targets and deadlines, take responsibility for their own learning and acquire a reflective, self-critical attitude to their own work - attributes that will serve them well in their ongoing professional development.

All modules make extensive use of the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) to post learning resources; these include (and vary from module to module) lecture notes, module and laboratory handbooks, exercises, quizzes, assignments, problem sheets, interesting web links, additional reading; screencasts; collaborative pages. The KLE is also used for electronic submission of course work and feedback in some cases.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

7. Teaching Staff

The Physics/Astrophysics academic staff exhibit a research profile with two main areas of expertise; astrophysics and condensed matter physics. Keele performs internationally renowned work in the fields of exoplanets, stellar physics (both observational and theoretical), high energy extragalactic astrophysics and in the study of soft condensed matter such as polymers and biological molecules. All research-active staff play a role in teaching and most also undertake administrative roles, either within our teaching or research activities. The teaching and research profiles of the staff that currently deliver the Physics with Astrophysics programme can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/physics/people/>. Timetabled teaching is always led by academic staff.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from programme to programme, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are two types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules.

Modern Language modules: You are able to take up to 60 credits across your degree programme as Faculty Funded additional Modern Language modules in order to graduate with the Enhanced Degree Title. [Please see [link](#) for more information on Enhanced degree titles.]

For further information on the content of modules currently offered please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	120	0	0
Level 5	120	0	0
Level 6	60	60	60

Module Lists

Level 4

At level 4, Physics/Astrophysics students require a common knowledge and skills base. In the Single Honours Physics with Astrophysics programme students study eight compulsory modules, all worth 15 credits, over the first two semesters of the programme. These consist of four modules that directly address core material as specified by the IoP, which include distinct mathematics and laboratory components. These four modules are common to the combined honours Physics programme. There are then four other modules that introduce Astrophysics and develop much broader physical, mathematical, computational, statistical and laboratory competencies. There is one module and several other components of laboratory, observatory and project work that are distinct from the single honours Physics programme, but transfer between these two programmes is possible at any point before semester 2 of year 1.

These modules are taught through a mixture of traditional lectures, problem class learning, smaller group tutorials and practical and computer-based laboratory work. The module descriptors provide detailed synopses of each module with suggested study reading and are available on the KLE.

Five of the modules are taught within a single semester (two in semester 1 and three in semester 2). Three of the modules have elements of teaching and assessment over both semesters, though they are designed so that there is roughly equal student workload in each semester when considering the programme as a whole.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity	PHY-10022	15	Semester 1
Nature of matter	PHY-10024	15	Semester 1
Scientific Programming	PHY-10028	15	Semester 1-2
Scientific Practice	PHY-10030	15	Semester 1-2
Applied Mathematics and Statistics	PHY-10032	15	Semester 1-2
Oscillations and Waves	PHY-10020	15	Semester 2
Electricity and Magnetism	PHY-10021	15	Semester 2
Introduction to Astronomy and Stellar Structure	PHY-10029	15	Semester 2

Level 5

At level 5 students continue to be taught the fundamentals of Physics/Astrophysics, with three compulsory modules that directly address the IoP core physics curriculum, two core modules dealing with the astrophysical fundamentals of Stellar structure and Galaxies, and additional compulsory modules that are specific to the single honours programmes that further develop the skills of mathematical and computational analysis and discuss the application of physics to contemporary topics such as power generation, novel technologies and the environment.

All of these modules are worth 15 credits and all modules are taught and assessed within a single semester.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Quantum Mechanics	PHY-20006	15	Semester 1
Optics and Thermodynamics	PHY-20027	15	Semester 1
Numerical Methods	PHY-20030	15	Semester 1
Mathematical Physics	PHY-20032	15	Semester 1
Stellar Astrophysics	PHY-20002	15	Semester 2
Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics	PHY-20026	15	Semester 2
Galaxies	PHY-20028	15	Semester 2
Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies	PHY-20033	15	Semester 2

Level 6

At level 6 there are four compulsory modules: Electromagnetism, Cosmology and students will complete a dissertation and a research project that combines elements of team and individual work. In addition, students will choose four optional modules from a list of available modules. Note that not all option modules may run in any given year, dependent on student preferences and staff availability.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Electromagnetism	PHY-30012	15	Semester 1
Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP	PHY-30006	15	Semester 1-2
Dissertation	PHY-30017	15	Semester 1-2
Cosmology	PHY-30001	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Binary Stars and Extrasolar Planets	PHY-30024	15	Semester 1
Data Analysis and Model Testing	PHY-30027	15	Semester 1
Particle Physics and Accelerators	PHY-30033	15	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)	NAT-30008	15	Semester 1-2
Professional Experience in Education	NAT-30012	15	Semester 1-2
Life in the Universe	PHY-30025	15	Semester 2
Quantum Mechanics II	PHY-30029	15	Semester 2
General Relativity, Black Holes and Gravitational Waves	PHY-30035	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) and Professional Experience in Education.

Our teaching puts an emphasis on problem solving. This occurs in problem classes where practice problems are solved with staff and teaching assistants available to help; in laboratory teaching where practical and computational problems are addressed; and in directed work for assessment. Students are encouraged to call

upon module leaders and year tutors for guidance. The staff will be willing to see students at almost any time (we operate an "open-door" policy) and there will be one-to-one progress interviews each semester. The teaching team will monitor progress and attendance, and will contact students if they are not achieving and advise on improvement strategies.

Students benefit from a flexible approach to learning the mathematical and computational skills that are essential to the learning and application of (Astro)physics. In years 1 and 2 there are dedicated Mathematics modules but Mathematics is also embedded as part of several other modules in each year. Similarly, although programming and computational skills are taught in specific modules, there is an expectation that these skills will increasingly be put into practice in later modules.

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 4

In Year 1 (Level 4) and Year 2 (Level 5) these learning outcomes are achieved in the compulsory modules which all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved or reinforced in elective modules together with other outcomes not stated here. In Year 3 (Level 6) the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the modules offered in each semester.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Understand basic concepts in mechanics, nature of matter, oscillation and waves, electricity and magnetism, mathematics and statistics, instrumentation physics, and scientific programming.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Demonstration of this understanding by solving physical problems.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Understanding of mathematical techniques necessary for application to physics.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Understand how to search for information and to disseminate scientific knowledge in various formats including reports and oral presentations.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Understand the principles of scientific programming and to apply computational and mathematical methods to solving physics problems.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Perform practical work and keep accurate accounts of it, including professionally maintained records of purpose, methodology, and results.	Nature of Matter Electricity and Magnetism Scientific Practice Scientific Programming
Communicate the process and results of practical work in formal, written presentations. Enter, manipulate, and present data with the aid of computer tools.	Nature of Matter Electricity and Magnetism Scientific Practice Scientific Programming

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
The ability to work safely in a laboratory or observatory, and a knowledge and awareness of standard safety procedures.	Nature of Matter Electricity and Magnetism Scientific Practice Scientific Programming
A sound familiarity with laboratory/astronomical apparatus and techniques.	Nature of Matter Electricity and Magnetism Scientific Practice Scientific Programming
Competency in the use of appropriate IT packages/systems for the analysis of data and the retrieval of information.	Nature of Matter Electricity and Magnetism Scientific Practice Scientific Programming
An ability in numerical manipulation and estimation, statistical interpretation and the ability to present and interpret information graphically.	Nature of Matter Electricity and Magnetism Scientific Practice Scientific Programming
An ability to use mathematical analysis and computational techniques to model physical behaviour.	Nature of Matter Electricity and Magnetism Scientific Practice Scientific Programming
An ability to research, record and communicate scientific information, in particular through clear and accurate scientific reports and a dissertation.	Nature of Matter Electricity and Magnetism Scientific Practice Scientific Programming
An ability to question, learn and assimilate knowledge and to evolve their views of the world in response to that new knowledge.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
An ability to contribute through research to the development of knowledge in (Astro)physics.	Nature of Matter Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
An ability to acquire knowledge and understanding of science themselves, and to work productively on scientific problems on an individual basis or in a team.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Manage their own learning and to make appropriate use of textbooks, research-based materials and other learning resources.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Find information and make responsible use of it.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Make effective written and oral presentations.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Work with numerical and statistical data.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Make sensible estimates.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Evaluate the costs and benefits of their actions.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Work effectively with a variety of types of Information Technology.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Formulate a problem and solve it using computational methods.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Plan, manage, execute and report an investigation.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Learn and gain understanding and to pass on that understanding to others.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Work effectively both as an individual and as part of a team.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming
Sustain motivation for an extended period.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Recognise their responsibilities as an individual and as part of a team or an organisation.	All modules: Mechanics, Gravity and Relativity Nature of Matter Oscillations and Waves Electricity and Magnetism Applied Mathematics and Statistics Scientific Practice Instrumentation Physics Scientific Programming

Level 5

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Comprehensive understanding of the relevant theoretical, experimental and observational background of quantum mechanics, optics, thermodynamics, nuclear physics, particle physics, statistical mechanics and solid state physics, stellar physics and the physics of galaxies.	All modules
Use a range of established techniques for critical analysis of numerical calculations in connection with problems in quantum mechanics, optics, thermodynamics, nuclear physics, particle physics, statistical mechanics and solid state physics.	All modules
Extended abilities in the execution and reporting of laboratory work within the context of physics; work safely in a laboratory and have a knowledge and awareness of standard safety procedures; gain a sound familiarity with laboratory apparatus and techniques	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030
Experience of working in a team on a short astrophysics project.	Galaxies - PHY-20028
The ability to select and deploy appropriate mathematical, computational or statistical analysis techniques to solve problems.	Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
The ability to work safely in a laboratory or observatory, and a knowledge and awareness of standard safety procedures.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028
A sound familiarity with laboratory/astronomical apparatus and techniques.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028
Competency in the use of appropriate IT packages/systems for the analysis of data and the retrieval of information.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
An ability in numerical manipulation and estimation, statistical interpretation and the ability to present and interpret information graphically.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028
An ability to use mathematical analysis and computational techniques to model physical behaviour.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028
An ability to research, record and communicate scientific information, in particular through clear and accurate scientific reports and a dissertation.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028
An ability to question, learn and assimilate knowledge and to evolve their views of the world in response to that new knowledge.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028
An ability to contribute through research to the development of knowledge in (Astro)physics.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028
An ability to acquire knowledge and understanding of science themselves, and to work productively on scientific problems on an individual basis or in a team.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028
Competency in the use of appropriate IT packages/systems for the analysis of data and the retrieval of information.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
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Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
An ability to question, learn and assimilate knowledge and to evolve their views of the world in response to that new knowledge.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
An ability to contribute through research to the development of knowledge in (Astro)physics.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
An ability to acquire knowledge and understanding of science themselves, and to work productively on scientific problems on an individual basis or in a team.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Manage their own learning and to make appropriate use of textbooks, research-based materials and other learning resources.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
Find information and make responsible use of it.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Make effective written and oral presentations.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
Work with numerical and statistical data.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
Make sensible estimates.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
Evaluate the costs and benefits of their actions.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
Work effectively with a variety of types of Information Technology.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
Formulate a problem and solve it using computational methods.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Plan, manage, execute and report an investigation.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
Learn and gain understanding and to pass on that understanding to others.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
Work effectively both as an individual and as part of a team.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
Sustain motivation for an extended period.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033
Recognise their responsibilities as an individual and as part of a team or an organisation.	Stellar Astrophysics - PHY-20002 Quantum Mechanics - PHY-20006 Statistical Mechanics and Solid State Physics - PHY-20026 Optics and Thermodynamics - PHY-20027 Galaxies - PHY-20028 Numerical Methods - PHY-20030 Mathematical Physics - PHY-20032 Applied Physics and Emerging Technologies - PHY-20033

Level 6

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Describe the central role played by the theory of electromagnetism and Maxwell's equations in understanding the universe and the world around them; describe electromagnetic waves, their production, their propagation and their interaction with non-conductive and conductive media; appreciate the connection between electricity, magnetism and special relativity.	Electromagnetism - PHY-30012
Demonstrate good comprehension, planning and execution of an individual project; give a short presentation on the progress of the project; produce of a clear, accurate and informative project report; demonstrate a good understanding of the literature associated with the project theme.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006
Describe cosmological observations; be able to apply basic physics principles to the universe as a whole; and will be able to calculate conditions in the universe at different times and use mathematics to relate the theory with the observations.	Cosmology - PHY-30001
Collect information on astrophysics topics and present to a peer group via an oral presentation and poster; assemble and review information on a specific topic and produce a substantial, detailed dissertation.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017
Detail the ingredients and physical structure of the Standard Model; analyse the relativistic dynamics of particles in interactions and of particle beams in accelerators; compare and contrast the operation, design and relative advantages of different types of particle accelerator; describe and calculate key phenomena in lepton physics; explain and apply the quark model to classify hadrons and account quantitatively for their measured properties; understand and apply some of the key ideas and empirical foundations of quantum field theories for the fundamental forces.	Particle Physics and Accelerators - PHY-30033
Apply celestial mechanics and stellar astrophysics to the interpretation of observations of binary star and exoplanet systems; demonstrate an understanding of the interactions between stars and planets such as mass transfer, common envelope evolution and tidal interactions; appreciate the physics and practicalities of methods for studying exoplanet atmospheres.	Binary Stars and Extrasolar Planets - PHY-30024
Demonstrate an understanding of the physical processes that govern the formation and evolution of planets, planetary atmospheres and Life; describe the possibilities of searches for extra-solar planets and extra-terrestrial life; critically evaluate the possibilities and limitations of interstellar travel and communication; Exercise initiative in designing and executing an experiment, and communicate ideas related to the experiment's context and objective.	Life in the Universe - PHY-30025
Use Dirac notation and Pauli spin matrices to describe and analyse the behaviour of quantum systems; interpret the rotation-vibration and Raman spectra of diatomic molecules; describe the applications of quantum effects such as entanglement and quantum state teleportation to cryptography, quantum computing and the investigation of the interpretations of quantum mechanics.	Quantum Mechanics II - PHY-30029

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate an understanding of the statistical techniques used to analyse physical data; solve data analysis problems and interpret scientific data using computer-based analysis techniques; critically evaluate data from primary sources; communicate judgements by applying established numerical analysis techniques.	Data Analysis and Model Testing - PHY-30027
Demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamental principles of Physics and competence in applying these principles to diverse areas of the subject; Demonstrate competency in the use of appropriate IT packages/systems for the analysis of data and the retrieval of information; Demonstrate an ability in numerical manipulation and estimation, statistical interpretation and the ability to present and interpret information graphically; Demonstrate an ability to use mathematical analysis and computational techniques to model physical behaviour; To question, learn and assimilate knowledge and to evolve their views of the world in response to that new knowledge; To acquire knowledge and understanding of science themselves, and to work productively on scientific problems on an individual basis or in a team; Develop a wider knowledge and understanding of advanced topics and their applications, and the acquisition of skills in the critical reading and understanding of published work in Physics; To record and communicate scientific information.	All modules
Solve problems in Physics using appropriate mathematical and computational tools including the ability to make sensible approximations.	All modules
Design, execute, and analyse critically, an experiment or investigation and draw valid conclusions; Estimate levels of uncertainty in their results, compare their results with expected outcomes, theoretical predictions or published data, and evaluate the significance of their results in this context; Recognise their responsibilities as an individual and as part of a team or an organisation; Work effectively both as an individual and as part of a team	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Life in the Universe - PHY-30025 Data Analysis and Model Testing - PHY-30027
To contribute through research to the development of knowledge in Physics/Astrophysics.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017
Apply the theory of General Relativity to solve problems in solar system, stellar and black hole astrophysics, identifying the appropriate analytical or numerical tools; quantitatively assess when a General Relativistic, rather than Newtonian approach is required; Describe and explain the main planks of evidence for General Relativity and for the existence of black holes; Use General Relativity to explain the existence, propagation and generation of gravitational waves and to solve problems relating to gravitational wave sources using appropriate analytical and numerical techniques; Explain the physical nature and purpose of the design and main components of gravitational wave detectors and quantitatively describe the factors that influence detector design and sensitivity; Engage with, and assimilate knowledge from, original research material and the primary literature.	General Relativity, Black Holes and Gravitational Waves - PHY-30035

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
The ability to work safely in a laboratory or observatory, and a knowledge and awareness of standard safety procedures.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017
A sound familiarity with laboratory/astronomical apparatus and techniques.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017
Competency in the use of appropriate IT packages/systems for the analysis of data and the retrieval of information.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017
An ability in numerical manipulation and estimation, statistical interpretation and the ability to present and interpret information graphically.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017
An ability to use mathematical analysis and computational techniques to model physical behaviour.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017
An ability to research, record and communicate scientific information, in particular through clear and accurate scientific reports and a dissertation.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017
An ability to question, learn and assimilate knowledge and to evolve their views of the world in response to that new knowledge.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017
An ability to contribute through research to the development of knowledge in (Astro)physics.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017
An ability to acquire knowledge and understanding of science themselves, and to work productively on scientific problems on an individual basis or in a team.	Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication - ISP - PHY-30006 Dissertation - PHY-30017

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Manage their own learning and to make appropriate use of textbooks, research-based materials and other learning resources.	All modules
Find information and make responsible use of it.	All modules
Make effective written and oral presentations.	All modules
Work with numerical and statistical data.	All modules
Make sensible estimates.	All modules
Evaluate the costs and benefits of their actions.	All modules
Work effectively with a variety of types of Information Technology.	All modules
Formulate a problem and solve it using computational methods.	All modules
Plan, manage, execute and report an investigation.	All modules
Learn and gain understanding and to pass on that understanding to others.	All modules
Work effectively both as an individual and as part of a team.	All modules
Sustain motivation for an extended period.	All modules
Recognise their responsibilities as an individual and as part of a team or an organisation.	All modules

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Honours Degree BSc (Hons) Physics with Astrophysics	360 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6</p> <p>You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study*, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject.</p> <p>*An exemption applies for students transferring from a Combined Honours programme - see point 3.4 here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/regulationc3/</p>
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

International Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'international year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

Work Placement Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'work placement year'

wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the placement year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used within Physics with Astrophysics at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance.

Year 1 (Level 4) lecture modules are assessed by a mixture of continuous assessment (mostly in the form of problem classes, problem sheets, laboratory work and laboratory reports, though also including at least one oral presentation and some short essays) and examination. A risk assessment also forms part of the laboratory work. The skills component of these modules is assessed on your work at the bench, your understanding of the experiment as displayed in discussion with the staff in the laboratory and in the laboratory reports you are required to write. Problem classes and tests that occur periodically throughout the year specifically assess the mathematics component, although mathematics is an embedded and inherent part of all other assessments including examinations and problem sheets. The computational strand is assessed specifically by computer tests and project work. The module marks from FHEQ Level 4 count for progression purposes but do not contribute to any final degree classification.

Year 2 (Level 5) lecture modules are assessed by a mixture of continuous assessment (mostly in the form of problem classes and problem sheets), laboratory work and examination. Laboratory work is assessed on your work at the bench, your understanding of the experiment as displayed in discussion with the staff in the laboratory and in the laboratory reports you are required to write, both individually and as part of a team. A risk assessment also forms part of the assessed laboratory work. The laboratory work is connected to the content of the lecture modules and the marks for the laboratory are therefore convolved with the examination and continuous assessment marks to give a final mark for each module. There are also specific class tests associated with Computing and Mathematics. The module marks from FHEQ Level 5 count towards progression and also make up one third of the aggregate marks for the purposes of final degree classification.

Year 3 (Level 6) modules are self-contained. Lecture modules are assessed using a mixture of continuous assessment (mostly in the form of problem sheets, though some feature essays, mini-projects or computer exercises) and examination. The Astrophysics project and Communication Skills module is assessed in terms of the originality and ingenuity you display, the quality and methods of research employed and on the final report. You are also given the opportunity to display these qualities in writing a short article, preparing an oral presentation and the report produced as part of a team. The Dissertation module is assessed on the scientific content and presentation of the dissertation and also on an oral presentation and a poster presentation that you are required to produce. The module marks for FHEQ Level 6 make up two thirds of the aggregate marks for the purposes of degree classification.

The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used within Physics with Astrophysics:

- **End of module examinations** test the ability of the student to describe, explain, and critically discuss the principles of the subject and to demonstrate competence in applying these principles to applications and to solve problems from appropriate areas of the discipline.
- **Assessed Problem Sheets** assess the student's skills in solving numerical and other problems within the discipline by drawing on their scientific understanding and knowledge, and experience of experimental techniques. Students may also be assessed on their skills of research and communication and on their ability to deploy appropriate mathematical, computational and numerical techniques.
- **Laboratory and Project Reports** - structured proformas and full lab reports are formal summaries of work carried out in the laboratory and test students' understanding of the practical aspects of the programme and assess the skills necessary to enable students to present and analyse their results.
- **Observation of laboratory skills and laboratory notebooks:** Throughout the extensive laboratory and other practical work in this programme, many types of assessment are utilised to achieve the learning outcomes. Notebooks are used to communicate the results of work accurately and reliably and to encourage good working practice, including managing risk assessments and following safe working practices.
- **Oral and/or Poster presentations** on project work demonstrate the ability of the student to present complex concepts and information in a clear and concise manner, to interact and communicate effectively to a wide range of professional environments, including to both scientific and non-scientific audiences. They also test how effectively students have been able to research and sift information.
- **In-class exercises and tests** taken either conventionally or online via the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) assess students' subject knowledge and their ability to apply it in a more structured and focused way.
- **Group oral presentations and reports** assess individual student's subject knowledge and understanding. They also test their ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development.
- **Engagement with problem classes** assess the extent to which students are able to work on problems and present their solutions in a logical, structured and coherent way.

- **Dissertation** assesses the student's ability to engage with an advanced area of physics, to research and sift information, and to communicate effectively via an extended piece of writing.
- **Computing Tests** specifically assess a student's computational skills and their ability to design and produce code to solve (astro)physics problems.
- **Mini-projects** short projects that form a minor part of module assessments designed to test subject knowledge but also to assess many of the skills components.
- **Risk assessments** are produced by students to test their appreciation of how to design experiments and consider the health and safety aspects of their work.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	35.4%	64.6%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	30.6%	69.4%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	22.9%	74.5%	2.5%

12. Accreditation

This subject/programme will be put forward for accreditation by The Institute of Physics (IoP). The combined honours Physics and Major honours Physics programmes that form a *subset* of Single Honours Physics have already achieved full accreditation. Please note the following:

- Graduates with accredited BSc degrees are eligible for Membership of the IoP and can follow a route to professional registration for Chartered Physicist status.

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

A student is not allowed to study both the International Year option and the Placement Year option.

14. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will provide a sample of Academic English during their registration. Using this sample, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. This will replace any GCP modules. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 5:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 6:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2); ENL-90005 Advanced Business English Communication
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

15. How are students supported on the programme?

All the academic staff in Physics operate an open-door policy for students. If they are available then, at any time in the working day, students may seek help and guidance. If staff are not immediately free they will arrange a future meeting for such discussions. Our department is reasonably small; students have many opportunities in labs, problem classes and tutorials to discuss their work and progress with staff. Students should feel free to approach any lecturer or module leader to discuss any academic issues.

In addition to this informal assistance there are many other avenues of help for students:

Keele Learning Environment (KLE)

All the Physics and Astrophysics modules are supported by learning materials that are accessible to students via the KLE at <https://students.keele.ac.uk/webapps/login/>.

Academic Mentor

All students are assigned an Academic Mentor as a part of the University's Academic Mentor system for the duration of their studies at Keele. There is a formal requirement for the Academic Mentors to meet with their first year mentees during the first week of the semester one. Subsequently, Academic Mentors should meet at least four times per year to discuss progress and offer support and advice on academic or any other matter. During the subsequent undergraduate years Academic Mentors and mentees should meet at least three times per year. Students can make arrangement to seek help or advice on any matter that affects their life and work as a student at Keele. More details available at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/academicmentoring/>

Students with disabilities

If you have long-term disabilities, you will have the assistance of the Disability Coordinator and the Examinations Office and from academic and support staff who liaise with these services.

Health and Safety

All students are briefed on Health and Safety as part of their induction and this is repeated at the beginning of the first laboratory session. Students are required to sign an agreement that they have read the Safety Handbook, and that they will abide by the rules and regulations governing the safety and welfare of all members within the University. The Safety handbook can be accessed on the KLE (<https://students.keele.ac.uk/>) under the section "Physics and Astrophysics Information"

Further information

It is essential that students check the KLE (<http://students.keele.ac.uk/>) for up to date information on course and teaching materials related to their Physics modules.

16. Learning Resources

The Central Science Laboratory (CSL) has modern, well-equipped undergraduate Physics teaching laboratory and there are dedicated computing laboratories. Students can use these computing laboratories for work (including remote access) when the lab is not booked for teaching sessions. The Level 6 Physics project laboratories are located in the Lennard-Jones Building. There is an on-campus observatory with a 24-inch reflecting telescope along with a variety of smaller instruments. The campus benefits from a low carbon energy park (6 MWp of solar panels and two wind turbines) that generates 50% of campus electricity, and a smart energy network offering access to massive datasets for projects and analysis.

17. Other Learning Opportunities

Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the International Year.

Work Placement Year

A summary of the Placement Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the Work Placement Year.

Other opportunities

There are other opportunities such as the Student Ambassador Scheme and e-mentoring scheme for students to enhance their employability skills.

18. Additional Costs

There are no additional costs for this course. However, students may incur general expenses related to university study, such as for printing, textbooks and other materials. Students who undertake a placement may be responsible for additional costs, such as travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. For further information, please refer to the [additional costs](#) information.

All core textbooks are available in the main University Library. To increase the availability of these resources, eBooks are also purchased alongside the printed text where available; these can be accessed through the University Library Catalogue. Additional costs may be incurred if the student wishes to purchase any book for themselves. The core textbooks can be purchased for approximately £120.

Students are eligible for Associate Membership of the Institute of Physics (IOP) for £15 per annum.

If you elect to take one of the optional modules:

- NAT-30008: Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)
- NAT-30012: Professional Experience in Education

You will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from your placement provider, and if necessary, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include

parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available from the placement provider for work placements, but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

19. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

20. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Physics, Astronomy and Astrophysics (2019)

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements?indexCatalogue=document-search&searchQuery=physics&wordsMode=AllWords>

c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

d. The Institute of Physics Accreditation Scheme for First Degree Courses in Physics - [Degree accreditation and recognition | Institute of Physics \(iop.org\)](http://www.iop.org)

21. Annex - International Year

Physics with Astrophysics with International Year

International Year Programme

Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option.

International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments;
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation;
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting;
4. Communicate effectively in an international setting;
5. Reflect on previous learning within an international context.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

22. Annex - Work Placement Year

Physics with Astrophysics with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student, and a researcher, with an appreciation of the work placement and applied dimension of physics/astrophysics
2. Experience of work in a work placement setting with the associated academic, safety and professional requirements

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module, (* or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

* We recommend where possible students undertake a placement of between 9 - 12 months on a full-time basis to maximize academic and personal growth. However, the Faculty of Natural Sciences Work / Professional Placement Year mandates a minimum of 24 weeks in duration, ideally on a full-time basis, but no less than 21 hours per week. This enables those undertaking an unpaid placement to work on a part-time basis alongside their placement.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Academic Performance (an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- (*International students only*) Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organisation at around 5 weeks after the placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

1. Apply the theories and laboratory skills learnt to real situations in the workplace to design, plan, risk assess, and critically evaluate practical investigations.
2. Develop key professional skills in the accurate documentation of information; the analysis of various types of data; and the planning and execution of the tasks safely.
3. Develop employability skills in the presentation and communication of data; the writing of reports; and the ability to work effectively, individually, and as part of a team
4. Explain how their perspective on physics/astrophysics has been influenced by working within the work placement setting

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module which involves:

1. An oral presentation on the placement year
2. A placement portfolio containing a reflective diary on the students work and experience, an evaluation of the students' performance by the placement host, and a report on the work done.

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated 'Work Placement Year' module
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

23. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: [Programme Name]

Final Award and Award Titles	BSc (Hons) Physics with Astrophysics BSc (Hons) Physics with Astrophysics with International Year (see Annex for details) BSc (Hons) Physics with Astrophysics with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Intermediate Award(s)	Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
Last modified	n/a
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

Variation 1: Condonement

This programme varies from Regulation D5:

Due to the accreditation requirements of the Institute of Physics, the PHY-30006 Astrophysics Group Project and Science Communication module in Level 6 requires a minimum pass mark of 40% and cannot be condoned.

Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

There are no additional requirements.

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 01 April 2026

What's Changed

Minor updates only

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.1	2024/25	BARRY SMALLEY	03 October 2025	Optional module changes for Level 5 and Level 6 students on the current course design.
1	2024/25	JOANA MARIA OLIVEIRA	12 September 2024	
1	2023/24	ARUMUGAM MAHENDRASINGAM	19 January 2023	
1	2022/23	ARUMUGAM MAHENDRASINGAM	09 June 2022	
1	2021/22	ARUMUGAM MAHENDRASINGAM	08 February 2021	
1	2020/21	ARUMUGAM MAHENDRASINGAM	19 December 2019	
1	2019/20	ARUMUGAM MAHENDRASINGAM	19 December 2019	