# Variation to the Course Information Document

## For Academic Year 2020/21

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| **Name of programme(s) and award type(s)**: *(such as Single Honours History with International Year)* | BSc Astrophysics (Combined Honours), BSc Physics (Single Honours, Combined Honours) and BSc Physics with Astrophysics (Single Honours) |

Dear students,

As part of our commitment to continually work to improve our programmes, and in light of our plans to start next academic year with a hybrid delivery model due to the impact of Covid-19, we are confirming in this document the changes to your programme in the Academic Year 2020/21. More general information about what studying at the University will be like in 2020/21 can be found here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/coronavirus/operations/

**Specific planned changes**

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| **How the programme will be taught** *(include any significant changes to the balance between on campus and digital delivery and what students can expect)* | Physics and Astrophysics programmes will be delivered by a mixture of synchronous and asynchronous sessions. At least one online synchronous session per module/week. In addition, there will be a weekly online synchronous session for problem classes and tutorials. There will be a weekly in-situ face to face Laboratory sessions for Physics and Astrophysics students (approximately 3 hours per week for combined honours students, and 4-6 hours per week for single honours students). Final year Physics students will have in-situ face to face, scheduled laboratory time associated with their research projects (approximately 6 hours per week), while final year Astrophysicists will have a mixture of some in-situ and face to face computational laboratory sessions. |
| **Changes to placements, field courses or other practical activities** *(where applicable)* | There will be a weekly face to face laboratory sessions across both semesters with online resources to support the laboratory learning activities. |
| **Learning resources and any potential additional costs** *(such as equipment requirements)* | Students will require IT resources to take part in learning activities through Microsoft Team, KLE and other online learning resources.<br><br>Given an increasing level of online teaching and assessments for this programme, it would be preferable if students had access to computer equipment with a webcam and microphone. It may also be preferable for students to have adequate Wi-Fi connectivity and associated internet speeds. Students who need support in accessing appropriate IT equipment may be eligible to apply for support from the University's hardship fund. |
| **How the programme will be assessed** *(a general summary of changes to assessment methods)* | We have a viable model for online, timed exams, which operated successfully for each module at the end of semester two for 2019/20 via the KLE. |

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| | Coursework assessments will remain unchanged. |
| **How students are supported** *(any alternative arrangements such as communication methods, support networks etc.)* | There will be induction sessions lead by year tutors at the beginning of the year. Year tutors will keep track of the engagements of the students and personal tutors will follow up any issues. We will continue to operate the online 'open door' access to the students. Students will be encouraged to contact us via email or Microsoft Team to discuss any issues, which inhibits their engagement with the programme. |

**Updated module lists for 2020/21**

**All other modules listed in the programme specifications remain unchanged.**

**Year 3 / Level 6 (2018/19 entry cohort)**

| **Optional modules** | **Module Code** | **Credits** | **Semester** | **Added/removed/unchanged?** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General Relativity, Black Holes and Gravitational Waves | PHY-30035 | 15 | 2 | Added |

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, including the list of elective modules, please visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/

The module selection website can be accessed here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/modules/