Programme Specification

MPhys Physics with Space Science (2020-21)

Subject to validation this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution: University of Southampton
Teaching Institution: University of Southampton
Mode of Study: Full-time
Duration in years: 4
Accreditation details: Institute of Physics (IOP)

Final award: Master of Physics (MPhys)
Name of award: Physics with Space Science
Interim Exit awards: Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc (Hons))
Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)

FHEQ level of final award: Level 7
UCAS code: F3FX
Programme code: 4414
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference: Physics, Astronomy And Astrophysics 2008
Programme Lead: Robert Fear (rcf2c13)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

Physics and astronomy are dynamic subjects which are continually being developed by new discoveries and innovations. In choosing to study physics at Southampton, you will benefit from being taught by research-active physicists who enjoy an outstanding international reputation in all research areas carried out within Physics & Astronomy. We assign a high priority to the continual development and improvement of our teaching methods and curriculum design in order to guarantee students a highly stimulating, as well as enjoyable and fruitful, learning experience.

Space Science embraces an ever-growing range of exhilarating areas of scientific study, which often rapidly develop into novel commercial applications that can change the face of society. Across the campus at Southampton there is a great deal of space activity, and apart from incorporating astronomy courses from Physics and
Astronomy we are able to cater for wider space science interests in terms of oceanographic and earth observational themes. We are also fortunate at Southampton in having an active Aeronautical and Astronautical engineering School who provide more technologically based courses in the context of spacecraft design factors, the space environment, orbital mechanics, mission analysis, mission operations and so on. The Physics with Space Science degree provides a solid grounding in a broad range of space disciplines, whilst allowing the students to specialise in areas of personal interest, and to target a wide range of careers from fundamental research to commercial space activities.

Physics & Astronomy recognises the potential diversity of our students both at home and internationally and thus this document has been written in accordance with the University’s Diversity Policies and current anti-discrimination legislation.

Exit awards are only available under exceptional circumstances. Note that students must meet the standard criteria for progression to these awards before they can be granted. In the case of the CertHE and DipHE, core modules for the BSc Physics are treated as compulsory modules for the purpose of deciding whether progression to these awards has been accomplished.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

Core knowledge and understanding is acquired substantially via lectures, supported by tutor-led tutorials, laboratory practical classes, problem classes, as well as guided independent study and research. Some modules may involve field-trips led by academic staff. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all the lectures for the courses on which they are registered and are required to attend all the supporting sessions.

Assessment

Assessment in the first and second year is a mixture of unseen written examinations, marked problem-based coursework and laboratory work. In the third year, assessment is mainly by examination, although laboratory-based, computer-based and dissertation modules will use different assessment methods, as appropriate. In the fourth year of the programme, laboratory work is replaced by a project which involves continuous assessment, written reports and an oral examination.

Special Features of the programme

Students can transfer easily between this programme and the BSc (Physics) and most MPhys (Physics) programmes until the end of Part II. Students can also transfer to the MPhys Physics with Astronomy course until the end of Part I, Part I being common to these two programmes. High-performing students on some programmes are also eligible to apply to one of our “flagship” programmes, which are not available for direct entry, but can only be entered at the end of second year. These programmes are:

- MPhys Astrophysics with a Year Abroad
- MPhys Particle Physics with a Year Abroad
- MPhys Physics with a Year of Experimental Research
- MPhys Physics with Industrial Placement

Space on these programmes is strictly limited. The programmes have their own specifications, which should be consulted for more information, including entry requirements.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student’s period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our Disclaimer to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student’s programme.
Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

**Educational Aims of the Programme**

The aims of the programme are to:
- introduce you to the main branches of physics and space science;
- help you to understand the principles of physics;
- provide you with a solid foundation for a successful career as a physicist, and opportunities to develop skills transferable to a wide range of other careers, and to prepare you for further studies in physics leading to a graduate degree such as a Ph.D.;
- offer you the opportunity to study some of the advanced concepts and techniques of contemporary physics, particularly in astronomy and photonics;
- enable you to develop skills in problem solving and critical and quantitative analysis in physics;
- enable you to develop practical skills in experimentation and measurement;
- provide you with the opportunity for a broader education by studying other subjects in addition to physics;
- provide you with a friendly and supportive environment and enrich your learning experience through interaction with staff engaged in internationally respected research;
- provide you with some of the basic computing and numeracy skills necessary for further study and employment, including word-processing, data analysis and internet-based research;
- enable you to develop computer programming skills and statistical techniques to support data analysis;
- help you develop key skills: personal organisation and teamwork, finding and using information, written and oral presentation;
- ensure that you become an increasingly independent learner and physicist as you progress through the programme.

**Programme Learning Outcomes**

**Knowledge and Understanding**

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

A1. mathematics required for the description of the physical world;
A2. the breakdown of classical (19th century) physics and the revolution in physics at the beginning of the 20th century;
A3. special relativity and its application in nuclear physics and high-energy particle scattering;
A4. the quantitative description of oscillating systems and wave-motion;
A5. Newtonian mechanics and its application to physical systems;
A6. quantum theory, both from qualitative and quantitative (quantum mechanics) viewpoints;
A7. application of quantum theory to describe the structure of atoms and nuclei;
A8. the laws of thermodynamics and their consequences for the behaviour of physical systems;
A9. statistical mechanics as a basis for the microscopic description of thermodynamic systems;
A10. electricity, magnetism and their unification through the laws of electromagnetism;
A11. a wide range of physics experimental techniques;
A12. electromagnetic waves and optics;
A13. quantum theory applied to relativistic systems;
A14. advanced classical and quantum mechanics and electromagnetism;
A15. specific topics selected for a dissertation and final year project.
A16. spacecraft design and the planning and implementation of space missions;
A17. specialist knowledge and expertise in a representative range of the key interdisciplinary areas of space science;
A18. the practical problems associated with the development and realisation of modern space projects;
A19. the ability to work as a member of a close-knit international team dedicated to the design of a space science mission;
A20. the potential for exploiting space technology for the benefit of science;

Teaching and Learning Methods

The topics listed in skills A1–A20 are taught mainly via lectures, directed reading and laboratory work as part of the core modules associated with this programme. The programme includes a field trip component in the second year. Learning is reinforced via tutorials (in Part I), project work (particularly in the final year project), coursework and problems classes.

Assessment Methods

The topics listed in skills A1–A20 are assessed via a range of assessment methods. Assessment in the first and second year is a mixture of unseen written examinations, marked problem-based coursework and laboratory work. The field trip component is based on continuous assessment of a team exercise. For the MPhys programmes, in the third year assessment is mainly by examination, although laboratory-based, computer-based and dissertation modules will use different assessment methods, as appropriate. In the fourth year of the MPhys programmes, laboratory work is replaced by a project which involves continuous assessment, written reports and an oral examination.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

B1. apply knowledge of physics to the solution of theoretical and practical physical problems;
B2. apply mathematical techniques in algebra, vectors, calculus and differential equations to the solution of physical problems;
B3. program and use computers to assist in the solution of physical problems;
B4. interpret data using statistical techniques and make decisions taking into account experimental errors.
B5. work in a team to design complex systems
Teaching and Learning Methods

Problem solving (items B1-B3) is at the heart of physics, and so it is emphasized throughout the learning and teaching experience, in lectures, coursework and problem classes. Mathematics skills (item B2) are developed via core maths modules in Part I and the use the techniques learned there in physics core modules in Parts I-III. Computer skills (item B3) are developed via a core Part I computing module (PHYS1201), and part of the core laboratory module (PHYS2022) in Part II. They can also be developed via optional modules (e.g. PHYS6017) and are often developed further and exploited in final year projects. Data analysis, interpretation and associated decision making (item B4) are developed primarily via core laboratory modules in Parts I and II, but usually also developed further in the final year project, which is also core. Team design skills (B5) are developed in PHYS2030.

Assessment Methods

Problem solving and mathematical skills (items B1-B2) are assessed mostly via written examinations, but also via assessed coursework, especially in Parts I and II of the programme. Problem-solving (B1), in particular, is also a key aspect of the final year project, which is assessed via supervisor’s judgment of research work, a written report and an oral examination. The computing part of the core laboratory (B3) module in Part II is assessed via practical exercises. Data interpretation and related decision making (B4) are assessed via practical work, vivas and presentations in the Part I-3 laboratory modules. They are also assessed implicitly in many/most final year projects. Team design skills (B5) are assessed by continuous assessment and assessed presentations.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

C1. communicate physical ideas in written form;
C2. recognise the value of numeracy in the precise statement of ideas;
C3. prepare and give an oral presentation using visual aids;
C4. prepare a scientific report using appropriate computer tools for document preparation, data analysis and graphical display;
C5. use information from a variety of sources including scientific journals, books and the internet;
C6. manage a project with due attention to time and resource management;
C7. work successfully as a team member.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Skill C1 is covered mainly via self-study (with help and feedback available) in the Physics Skills/Physics from Evidence lab modules (via write-ups), in the final year project (which is partly assessed via a written report), and (for the MPhys) the dissertation module. Skill C2 is embedded throughout the curriculum, with practical applications in experimental and project work. Skill C3 is covered the Part II Physics from Evidence laboratory module, which includes a “conference” component, during which students give an assessed presentation on your laboratory work at a mock scientific conference. It is also covered in both PHYS2030 and the dissertation module, which include presentations associated with the teamwork.
components. Skill C4 is covered in laboratory and project work, as well as the dissertation module. Skill C5 is covered by the final year project, as well as the dissertation module. Skill C6 is developed especially during the final year project, but also during PHYS2030 and the dissertation module. Skill C7 is developed during all lab modules (which typically are done in pairs), during the final year project (again, this is usually done in pairs), and particularly during the dissertation module (which includes a team work component).

Assessment Methods

Skill C1 is assessed with written reports on experimental work in laboratory modules, via the written report required for the final year project, and (for the MPhys) via the written report required for the dissertation module. Skill C2 is assessed in a variety of ways throughout the programme – it is an ingredient in everything from formal exams, to oral examinations, to written reports and presentations. Skill C3 is assessed via a presentation students give during a mock scientific conference which is part of the Part II Physics from Evidence laboratory module. Skill C4 is assessed in the marking of all written coursework and reports, such as laboratory and project work, and also the report for the dissertation module (for MPhys students). Skill C5 is assessed as an explicit component in the mark scheme for the final year project report, and also in the report for the dissertation module (for MPhys students). Skill C6 is assessed primarily via the supervisor's mark on the final year project performance, but of course also via the report on the project (and, for MPhys students) the dissertation module. For MPhys students, skill C7 is assessed explicitly via the team work component of the final year project. The mark for this is assigned by the module coordinator, but takes into account team members assessment of each other's contribution. For the final year project, team work can also be a factor in a supervisor's assessment for the final year project.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

D1. use standard laboratory apparatus for physical measurements;
D2. use computers for the acquisition, storage, and analysis of data.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The fundamentals for skill D2 are introduced in a core Part I module (PHYS1201) and assessed via coursework. Skill D1 is developed and assessed primarily via the core laboratory modules in Parts I and II. Skill D2 is developed and assessed during the laboratory modules, especially the Part II Physics from Evidence module, which includes a computing component.

Programme Structure
The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

**Part I**

Typical course content

We offer both Single and Combined Honours degree programmes; the former is a state of the art introduction to modern physics whilst the latter is aimed at students wishing to become professional physicists, either by moving onto a PhD or in Industry. In practice there is considerable flexibility to change from single honours to combined honours and vice versa, especially in the first year of your degree.

All the degree programmes that we offer are based on a core of essential fundamental physics courses supplemented by a range of optional courses. Furthermore, the ‘With’ programmes are designed to develop a coherent pattern of study in areas in which we have particular strengths either within the School or elsewhere in the University - Space Science is one such area. The optional courses can be chosen over a broad range of topics; you will also have the opportunity to choose optional modules in a wide range of subjects, from Business Skills and Economics to Ethics and Global Health.

The structure of the MPhys with Space Science programmes allows you to exercise choice in 4 modules in the final year of study. You can exercise this choice in a number of ways.

- You can use these modules to further deepen your knowledge of your main subject.
- You can combine additional modules from your main subject with modules from other disciplines or choose from a selection of interdisciplinary modules.

It should be noted that it may not be possible to run some optional modules if the number of students registered on the module is very small. It should also be noted that optional module choice can be restricted by the University Timetable, which varies from year to year: some optional modules may clash with other optional or compulsory modules. Please be aware that many modules are shared between different cohorts; the class size depends on cohort size, which varies from year to year.

The information in this programme specification is accurate at the time of writing, but may change in minor ways from year to year due to staff availability or other factors. Some of these modules are subject to pre-requisites and exclusions that, for brevity, are not given here; this information is available in the module specifications on the Physics & Astronomy Undergraduate Teaching website.

Core modules must be taken and passed before progression to next level or award.

Compulsory modules must be taken before progression to next level or award.

**Part I Core**

You must take the following core modules:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS1022</td>
<td>Electricity and Magnetism</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS1013</td>
<td>Energy and Matter</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS1005</td>
<td>Introduction to Astronomy and Space Science</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH1006</td>
<td>Mathematical Methods for Physical Scientists 1a</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH1007</td>
<td>Mathematical Methods For Physical Scientists 1b</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS1015</td>
<td>Motion and Relativity</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS1201</td>
<td>Physics Skills - Programming and Data Analysis</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS1017</td>
<td>Physics Skills 1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS1019</td>
<td>Physics Skills 2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS1011</td>
<td>Waves, Light and Quanta</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Core</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Part II

**Part II Core**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SESA2024</td>
<td>Astronautics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS2006</td>
<td>Classical Mechanics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS2001</td>
<td>Electromagnetism</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS2030</td>
<td>European Dimension in Space</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS2022</td>
<td>Physics from Evidence I</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS2003</td>
<td>Quantum Physics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PHYS2024  Statistical Mechanics  7.5  Core

PHYS2023  Wave Physics  7.5  Core

Part III

Part III Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SESA3039</td>
<td>Advanced Astronautics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS3008</td>
<td>Atomic Physics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS3004</td>
<td>Crystalline Solids</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6009</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS3002</td>
<td>Nuclei and Particles</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6004</td>
<td>Space Plasma Physics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS3007</td>
<td>Theories of Matter, Space and Time</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part III Optional Compulsory

You will choose one of the following modules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6017</td>
<td>Computer Techniques in Physics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6008</td>
<td>Physics from Evidence II</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part IV
### Part IV Compulsory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6015</td>
<td>MPhys Final Year Synoptic Examination</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SESA6076</td>
<td>Spacecraft Orbital Mechanics and Control</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part IV Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6006</td>
<td>MPhys Project</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part IV Optional

You will be able to select 22.5 ECTS/45 CATS of optional modules in semester 1 and 7.5 ECTS/15 CATS in semester 2. These can include broadening options (LANGXXXX, UOSMXXXX, etc.) that may be chosen from the list of modules provided in the programme catalogue (online option choice system).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6003</td>
<td>Advanced Quantum Physics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS3009</td>
<td>Applied Nuclear Physics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6012</td>
<td>Coherent Light, Coherent Matter</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS3019</td>
<td>Communicating and Teaching and The Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6005</td>
<td>Cosmology</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6024</td>
<td>Lasers</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6014</td>
<td>Nanoscience: technology and advanced materials</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6011</td>
<td>Particle Physics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS6071</td>
<td>Physics of the Early Universe</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University’s regulations for *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes* and *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master’s Programmes* as set out in the University Calendar: [http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html](http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html)

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards.
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and ‘out of hours’ support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students’ Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students’ views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- All students have a personal tutor, with whom they meet regularly, particularly during the first year where small group tutorials are used to discuss the core physics courses and associated coursework/problem sheets. Tutors offer help on both academic matters, such as choice of option courses, and on pastoral matters.
- The Year Directors of Studies, the Director of Programmes, as well as the Senior Tutor are available to give help and advice as required.
- One of the primary functions of the Faculty Office is student support and guidance. The Faculty Office is able to provide information on wide range of topics, including programme regulations, special consideration procedures, appeals, and much more.
- The student physics society Physoc organizes a “parenting” scheme in which all new arrivals are looked after by senior physics students. Physoc also runs an academic mentoring scheme that aims to provide academic tutoring, help and advice for students by students.
- In the first and second year, each core module has an associated compulsory problems class where demonstrator provide individual help on the course material and/or coursework;
- Students normally work in pairs on final year projects, which are supervised by a member of academic
staff who is likely to be an internationally respected expert.
• Most modules provide printed lecture notes that are either distributed or are available online.
• Key transferable skills are embedded throughout our courses, particularly those which contain coursework or laboratory work.
• Provision is made for any student who specifically wishes to consult a female member of staff.
• We are proud of the friendly atmosphere in Physics & Astronomy. Members of staff are happy to be approached for help. The Faculty Office also provides support for students throughout their programmes.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

• Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme
• Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feed back on your behalf.
• Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
• Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

• Annual module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
• Programme validation, normally every five years.
• External examiners, who produce an annual report
• Regular inspections and accreditation by the Institute of Physics
• A national Research Excellence Framework (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
• Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the Quality Handbook.

Career Opportunities

We believe in helping our students gain the necessary experience for a future career, along with the skills to identify opportunities and make the most of them. At Southampton, you will have the opportunity to broaden your options by meeting employers, getting involved in volunteering activities, work placements and much more.

We work hard to help our students enter exciting careers. Our Academic Careers Team, supported by our student society (PHYSOC), put on over 40 hours a year of careers advice ranging from helping you write your CV, to advice on how to set up a small business, to mock interviews supported by real companies. We work with our students to find them placements and internships, which will help them to gain valuable work experience, preparing them for employment when they graduate. In 2012, 86% of our students began a career within six months of graduating.

We offer our top performing students to chance to join one of our flagship programmes, which allows them to work at research centres in leading Universities overseas, such Harvard University, or for world renowned research centres such as CERN, where scientists recently discovered the Higgs Boson. One of the flagship programmes, the MPhys with Industrial Placement, provides students with the opportunity to spend a full semester working on physics-related topics in a company.

We are part of South East Physics Network (SEPNet), who we work with to organise eight-week paid internships for our students during the summer vacation. In previous years, students have been placed with a wide range of organisations, including The National Physical Laboratory, BMW, The Met Office, SELEX Galileo, QinetiQ, the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy. As well as offering employment opportunities, these companies offer advice
to our students about how to become more competitive in the work place.

SEPNet has a dedicated Careers Adviser who our students can liaise with. We work with SEPNet to offer our students the chance to attend ‘meet the employer’ days as well as careers talks with speakers from industry.

**External Examiner(s) for the programme**

Name: Professor Simon Cornish - Durham University

Name: Professor Haley Gomez - University of Cardiff

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

**Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.
Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

### Additional Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stationery</strong></td>
<td>You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Textbooks</strong></td>
<td>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approved Calculators</strong></td>
<td>Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX-570 and Casio FX-85GT Plus. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fieldwork: logistical costs</strong></td>
<td>PHYS2030: The one-week field trip component takes place within the Easter break, at the premises of the University of La Laguna, Tenerife.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>While the field trip is heavily subsidised by the faculty, a student contribution to the costs is required.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Flight costs, all local travel costs in Spain, and all hotel accommodation costs are included. The only unavoidable costs students will incur in Spain are food costs during the day. Any student who genuinely cannot afford to pay the student contribution for some reason should contact the course co-ordinator to discuss this privately.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>For students taking this module in AY 2016/17, the cost will be £275.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Printing and Photocopying Costs</strong></td>
<td>In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy.</td>
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</table>

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University’s Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.