

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes **MSci Honours Degree programmes in Physics**. For Combined and Joint Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). This specification is valid for entrants from **September 2016**.

The aims of all Honours MSci Degree programmes in Physics are:

- to impart an advanced knowledge of the fundamental elements of Physics and a critical awareness of current problems in the discipline;
- to develop a high level of competence in the use of appropriate techniques in physics and mathematics;
- to develop the skills and knowledge required for experimentation and/or theoretical modelling at postgraduate level;
- to promote oral and written communication skills to a professional level;
- to teach the effective use of information technology and computing facilities for the treatment and presentation of complex experimental data;
- to provide a critical awareness of safety procedures and environmental issues;
- to develop critical problem solving abilities to a professional level;
- to provide a strong foundation for postgraduate research in the physical sciences, for advanced entry into a wide range of both scientific and non-vocational careers, and for continuing professional development.

Programmes are delivered in four stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of 120 national credits. For some programmes there is the option of part-time study. In that case a stage may be spread over two years of study; in each part-time year the student will follow courses to the value of 60 credits. The curriculum is characterised by strong progression and opportunities for specialisation throughout the programme. Stages one and two provide a foundation for the later stages through a compulsory spine of courses that complete a core, discipline-specific, knowledge base. Stages three and four offer a wide range of optional MSci courses with the latter being taught on an intercollegiate basis by members of the University of London Physics MSci consortium.

Specifically, stage one gives a balanced foundation for progression, offers opportunities for students to select and move between degree programmes according to their interests and provides a foundation which serves students from a wide variety of educational backgrounds. The stage one curriculum aims:

1. to extend and develop classical physics covered at A-level, to bring students to a common level and to set their knowledge into an appropriate context;
2. to develop modern physics and establish it on a firm foundation, enabling students to experience the flavour of modern physics, without excessive technical detail;
3. to extend and develop the mathematics covered at A-level;
4. to start the programme of discipline-specific and transferable skills.

Stage two builds on this and applies the skills and knowledge acquired to specific subjects. The available courses complete the essential physics core consisting of classical and modern physics, emphasising Electromagnetism, Quantum Mechanics, and Classical and Statistical Thermodynamics. Skills are further developed and Physics specialists take courses in Mathematical Methods, Solid State Physics, Optics, and Atomic and Nuclear Physics. Other courses are available for the other programmes. In stage three, students take a number of advanced courses including options depending on their degree programme and personal interests. Students take Scientific Skills for MSci, PH3010, designed to provide a transition between the straightforward experiments of the stage two and the comprehensive and open-ended project work, which is a major component of stage four. In stage four all Royal Holloway students take the Research Review, PH4110 and the Major Project, PH4100, as well as the optional courses taught by the intercollegiate consortium. Much of the study undertaken in stage four is at, or informed

by, the forefront of Physics. Students will have shown originality in the application of knowledge and will understand how this knowledge is advanced by research. They will deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively and show originality in tackling and solving problems. Many third and fourth year courses closely reflect the research interests of members of staff, who are active specialists in their fields.

Further information

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Teaching, learning and assessment](#)

[Details of the programme structure\(s\)](#)

[Progression and award requirements](#)

[Student support and guidance](#)

[Admission requirements](#)

[Further learning and career opportunities](#)

[Indicators of quality and standards](#)

[List of programmes, with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements](#)

This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programmes are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- a systematic knowledge of current understanding of the inanimate physical universe and critical awareness of current problems in the discipline to a level appropriate to a Master's degree;
- a critical understanding of the fundamental concepts of Physics and how these may be applied to evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline;
- a detailed understanding of the quantum and continuum descriptions of natural phenomena;
- an understanding of the microscopic and macroscopic structure of all the states (phases) of matter and their interactions with different forms of energy;
- a comprehensive understanding of fundamental physical laws and principles, along with their application to more diverse areas of Physics, including those at the forefront of the discipline;
- a comprehensive understanding of the experimental and/or theoretical and computational techniques and diagnostic tools appropriate to the particular field of endeavour and an awareness of such techniques in other fields;
- a critical approach to the gathering, collating, analysis and reporting of experimental data based on an understanding of errors and the limits of measurement;
- an understanding of the significance of error analysis and the relationship between theory and experiment.

Skills and other attributes

The programme is designed to allow students to acquire competence in the ability to:

- use appropriate mathematical and/or computational tools to formulate and tackle complex problems in physics and to model physical behaviour and thus compare critically the results of calculations with those from experimental observation;
- use appropriate methods to analyse data and to evaluate the level of its uncertainty and to relate any conclusions to current theories of the physics involved;

- formulate problems in precise terms, including translating them into mathematical statements (and vice versa) and making sensible assumptions and exercising a degree of originality in tackling them. To obtain order-of-magnitude or exact numerical solutions as appropriate;
- plan and execute an extended open-ended investigation, to analyse critically the data and to relate any conclusions to current theories of the physics involved;
- communicate complex scientific ideas and the conclusions of an experiment, investigation or project concisely, accurately and informatively, both orally and in writing;*
- employ IT skills which show fluency at the level and range needed for project work; for example a familiarity with a programming language or simulation software, and the use of mathematical packages for manipulation and numerical solution of equations;*
- employ experimental skills showing the selection of appropriate pieces of equipment and competent use of it, and the ability to master new techniques and equipment rapidly (experimental-based programmes only);
- read critically demanding textbooks, and research literature, search databases and listen carefully and interact with colleagues to extract important information. Make use of appropriate IT packages/systems for the analysis of this data;*
- manipulate numerical data, and present and interpret information graphically;*
- make sound judgements in the absence of complete data;*
- analyse complex information, manipulating precise and intricate ideas to construct logical arguments and then presenting them in a clear and concise manner to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.*

* transferable skills

In addition, the programmes foster the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthen our graduates' abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include: personal motivation and initiative; the ability to work autonomously and with others; the ability to meet deadlines; listening skills; the ability to interact constructively with other people; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development; flexibility and adaptability; creativity and originality; the ability to make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations.

[Back to top](#)

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, laboratory practical classes and problem-solving sessions; the latter generally providing a forum for students, with the support of their instructors, to work through problem sets and applications in a smaller and more interactive setting. Learning is through participation in lectures and seminars, designated reading, completion of problem sets and guided independent study and research. All students are expected to meet basic standards in information technology, for which training is provided by the College Computer Centre. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is mainly by formal, unseen written examination; coursework exercises, laboratory reports, oral and poster presentations and a Project dissertation are also assessed. A detailed mapping of the ways in which particular courses and modules achieve the programmes' learning outcomes may be found in the [Department of Physics](#) Student Handbook and the Physics MSci Student Handbook.

[Back to top](#)

Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that the list of available courses offered is subject to change. A summary is provided in the tables below. The entries indicate:

Mandatory non-condonable – courses that must be passed in order to progress to the next stage;
Mandatory condonable - courses that must be taken at the designated stage of the programme;
Option - option courses may be chosen, with guidance, by students.

Single Honours MSci Degree programmes

			F303 Physics	F321 Theoretical Physics	F510 Astrophysics	F372 Physics with Particle Physics	F313 Experimental Physics
Students take the following courses:							
Stage 1							
Mathematics for Scientists 1	PH1110	15 credits	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond
Mathematics for Scientists 2	PH1120	15 credits	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond
Scientific skills 1	PH1140	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Scientific skills 2	PH1150	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Classical Mechanics	PH1320	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Fields and Waves	PH1420	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Classical Matter	PH1620	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Physics of the Universe	PH1920	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Stage 2							
Mathematical Methods	PH2130	15 credits	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond
Scientific Computing Skills	PH2150	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Quantum Mechanics	PH2210	15 credits	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond
Optics	PH2310	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond		Mand cond
Electromagnetism	PH2420	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Atomic and Nuclear Physics	PH2510	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Particle Detectors and Accelerators	PH2520	15 credits				Mand cond	

Classical and Statistical Thermodynamics	PH2610	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
The Solid State	PH2710	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond		Mand cond	Mand cond
Astronomy	PH2900	15 credits			Mand cond		
plus Physics options	x 15 credits		0	0	0	0	0
Stage 3							
Scientific Skills for MSci	PH3010	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Energy	PH3040	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Advanced Classical Physics	PH3130	15 credits	option	Mand cond	option	option	option
Further Mathematical Methods	PH3150	15 credits	option	Mand cond	option	option	option
Nonlinear Systems and Chaos	PH3160	15 credits	option	option		option	option
C++ and Object Oriented Programming	PH3170	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Experimental Design	PH3180	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Quantum Theory	PH3210	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Particle Physics	PH3520	15 credits	option	option	Mand cond	Mand cond	option
Metals and Semiconductors	PH3710	15 credits	option	option		option	Mand cond
Superconductivity & Magnetism	PH3730	15 credits	option	option		option	Mand cond
Frontiers of Metrology	PH3810	15 credits	option	option		option	Mand cond
General Relativity and Cosmology	PH3910	15 credits	option	Mand cond	Mand cond	option	
Stellar Astrophysics	PH3920	15 credits	option	option	Mand cond	option	option
Particle Astrophysics	PH3930	15 credits	option	option	Mand cond	Mand cond	option
Planetary Geology and Geophysics	GL3510	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Optics	PH2310	15 credits				Mand cond	
Particle Detectors and Accelerators	PH2520	15 credits	option	option			
The Solid State	PH2710	15 credits			Mand cond		
Astronomy	PH2900	15 credits	option	option		option	
Physics options	x 15 credits		6	3	1	3	3
In choosing options you may take no more than a total of 30 credits of level-2 courses in the third year.							
Options taken in the second year may not be taken again in the third year.							

Stage 4							
Major Project	PH4100	30 credits	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond
Research Review	PH4110	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Lie Groups and Lie Algebras	PH4205X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Statistical Mechanics	PH4211	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Phase Transitions	PH4215X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Advanced Quantum Theory	PH4226X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Relativistic Waves & Quantum Fields	PH4242X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Advanced Quantum Field Theory	PH4245X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Functional Methods in Quantum Field Theory	PH4246X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Formation & Evolution of Stellar Clusters	PH4319X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Advanced Physical Cosmology	PH4336X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Atom and Photon Physics	PH4421X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Advanced Photonics	PH4425X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Quantum Computation & Communication	PH4427X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Quantum Electronics of Nanostructures	PH4428	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Molecular Physics	PH4431X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Particle Physics	PH4442X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Particle Accelerator Physics	PH4450	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Order & Excitations in Condensed Matter	PH4472X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Theoretical Treatments of Nano-systems	PH4473X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Physics at the Nanoscale	PH4475	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Electronic Structure Methods	PH4476X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Computer Simulation in Condensed Matter	PH4477	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Superfluids, Condensates & Superconductors	PH4478	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Standard Model Physics and Beyond	PH4501X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance	PH4512	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Statistical Data Analysis	PH4515	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
String Theory and Branes	PH4534X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Supersymmetry	PH4541X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Stellar Structure and Evolution	PH4600X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Cosmology	PH4601X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Relativity and Gravitation	PH4602X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
General Relativity and Cosmology	PH4604X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Astroparticle Cosmology	PH4605X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Electromagnetic Radiation in Astrophysics	PH4616X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Planetary Atmospheres	PH4630X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Solar Physics	PH4640X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Solar System	PH4650X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
The Galaxy	PH4660X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Astrophysical Plasmas	PH4670X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Space Plasma & Magnetospheric Physics	PH4680X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Extrasolar Planets & Astrophysical Discs	PH4690X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Environmental Remote Sensing	PH4702X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Molecular Biophysics	PH4800X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Theory of Complex Networks	PH4810X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Equilibrium Analysis of Complex Systems	PH4820X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Dynamical Analysis of Complex Systems	PH4830X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Mathematical Biology	PH4840X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Elements of Statistical Learning	PH4850X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Physics options	x 15 credits		5	5	5	5	5
When choosing option courses you must be sure to satisfy any prerequisites.							

Joint Honours Degree programmes with Physics as an equal element

Students take the following courses:			GFC3 Mathematics and Physics
Stage 1			
Scientific Skills 1	PH1140	15 credits	Mand cond
Classical Mechanics	PH1320	15 credits	Mand cond
Classical Matter	PH1620	15 credits	Mand cond
Physics of the Universe	PH1920	15 credits	Mand cond
Stage 2			
Scientific Computing Skills	PH2150	15 credits	Mand cond
Quantum Theory	PH2210	15 credits	Mand cond
Classical and Statistical Thermodynamics	PH2610	15 credits	Mand cond
The Solid State	PH2710	15 credits	Mand cond
Stage 3			
Scientific Skills for MSci	PH3010	15 credits	Mand cond
Nonlinear Systems and Chaos	PH3160	15 credits	Mand cond \$
Electromagnetic Theory	PH3420	15 credits	Mand cond *
Optics	PH2310	15 credits	Mand cond
Atomic & Nuclear Physics	PH2510	15 credits	Mand cond
\$ PH3160 is the same as MT3280 so it may be counted as a Physics or a Maths module			
* PH3420 is the same as MT3240 so it may be counted as a Physics or a Maths module			
Stage 4			
Major Project	PH4100	30 credits	option
Research Review	PH4110	15 credits	Mand cond

Math Methods for Theoretical Physics	PH4201X	15 credits	option
Lie Groups and Lie Algebras	PH4205X	15 credits	option
Statistical Mechanics	PH4211	15 credits	option
Phase Transitions	PH4215X	15 credits	option
Advanced Quantum Theory	PH4226X	15 credits	option
Relativistic Waves & Quantum Fields	PH4242X	15 credits	option
Advanced Quantum Field Theory	PH4245X	15 credits	option
Functional Methods in Quantum Field Theory	PH4246X	15 credits	option
Formation and Evolution of Stellar Clusters	PH4319X	15 credits	option
Advanced Physical Cosmology	PH4336X	15 credits	option
Atom and Photon Physics	PH4421X	15 credits	option
Advanced Photonics	PH4425X	15 credits	option
Quantum Computation and Communication	PH4427X	15 credits	option
Molecular Physics	PH4431X	15 credits	option
Particle Physics	PH4442X	15 credits	option
Particle Accelerator Physics	PH4450	15 credits	option
Order and Excitations in Condensed Matter	PH4472X	15 credits	option
Theoretical Treatments of Nano-systems	PH4473X	15 credits	option
Physics at the Nanoscale	PH4475	15 credits	option
Electronic Structure Methods	PH4476X	15 credits	option
Computer Simulation in Condensed Matter	PH4477	15 credits	option
Superfluids, Condensates & Superconductors	PH4478	15 credits	option
Standard Model Physics and Beyond	PH4501X	15 credits	option
Nuclear Magnetic Resonance	PH4512	15 credits	option
Statistical Data Analysis	PH4515	15 credits	option
String Theory and Branes	PH4534X	15 credits	option

Supersymmetry	PH4541X	15 credits	option
Stellar Structure and Evolution	PH4600X	15 credits	option
Cosmology	PH4601X	15 credits	option
Relativity and Gravitation	PH4602X	15 credits	option
General Relativity and Cosmology	PH4604X	15 credits	option
Astroparticle Cosmology	PH4605X	15 credits	option
Electromagnetic Radiation in Astrophysics	PH4616X	15 credits	option
Planetary Atmospheres	PH4630X	15 credits	option
Solar Physics	PH4640X	15 credits	option
Solar System	PH4650X	15 credits	option
The Galaxy	PH4660X	15 credits	option
Astrophysical Plasmas	PH4670X	15 credits	option
Space Plasma and Magnetospheric Physics	PH4680X	15 credits	option
Extrasolar Planets & Astrophysical Discs	PH4690X	15 credits	option
Environmental Remote Sensing	PH4702X	15 credits	option
Molecular Biophysics	PH4800X	15 credits	option
Theory of Complex Networks	PH4810X	15 credits	option
Equilibrium Analysis of Complex Systems	PH4820X	15 credits	option
Dynamical Analysis of Complex Systems	PH4830X	15 credits	option
Mathematical Biology	PH4840X	15 credits	option
Elements of Statistical Learning	PH4850X	15 credits	option
Physics options	x 15 credits		5
% Students must take either PH4100 or MT4000			
When choosing option courses you must be sure to satisfy any prerequisites.			

Single Honours MSci Degree programmes

Part-time

			F303 Physics	F321 Theoretical Physics	F510 Astrophysics	F372 Physics with Particle Physics	F313 Experimental Physics
Students take the following courses:							
Stage 1a							
Mathematics for Scientists 1	PH1110	15 credits	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond
Mathematics for Scientists 2	PH1120	15 credits	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond
Classical Mechanics	PH1320	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Physics of the Universe	PH1920	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Stage 1a							
Scientific Skills 1	PH1140	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Scientific Skills 2	PH1150	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Fields and Waves	PH1420	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Classical Matter	PH1620	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Stage 2a							
Mathematical Methods	PH2130	15 credits	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond
Quantum Mechanics	PH2210	15 credits	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond
Atomic and Nuclear Physics	PH2510	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Classical and Statistical Thermodynamics	PH2610	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Physics options	x 15 credits		0	0	0	0	0
Stage 2b							
Scientific Computing Skills	PH2150	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond

Optics	PH2310	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond		Mand cond
Electromagnetism	PH2420	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Particle Detectors and Accelerators	PH2520	15 credits				Mand cond	
The Solid State	PH2710	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond		Mand cond	Mand cond
Astronomy	PH2900	15 credits			Mand cond		
Stages 3a and 3b							
Scientific Skills for MSci	PH3010	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Energy	PH3040	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Advanced Classical Physics	PH3130	15 credits	option	Mand cond	option	option	
Further Mathematical Methods	PH3150	15 credits	option	Mand cond	option	option	option
Nonlinear Systems and Chaos	PH3160	15 credits	option	option		option	option
C++ and Object Oriented Programming	PH3170	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Experimental Design	PH3180	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Quantum Theory	PH3210	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Particle Physics	PH3520	15 credits	option	option	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Metals and Semiconductors	PH3710	15 credits	option	option		option	Mand cond
Superconductivity & Magnetism	PH3730	15 credits	option	option		option	Mand cond
Frontiers of Metrology	PH3810	15 credits	option	option		option	Mand cond
General Relativity and Cosmology	PH3910	15 credits	option	Mand cond	Mand cond	option	
Stellar Astrophysics	PH3920	15 credits	option	option	Mand cond	option	option
Particle Astrophysics	PH3930	15 credits	option	option	Mand cond	Mand cond	option
Planetary Geology and Geophysics	GL3510	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Optics	PH2310	15 credits				Mand cond	
Particle Detectors and Accelerators	PH2520	15 credits	option	option			
The Solid State	PH2710	15 credits			Mand cond		
Astronomy	PH2900	15 credits	option	option		option	

Physics options	x 15 credits	6	3	1	3	3	
In choosing options you may take no more than a total of 30 credits of level-2 courses in the third year.							
Options taken in the second year may not be taken again in the third year.							
Stages 4a and 4b							
Major Project	PH4100	30 credits	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond	Mand non-cond
Research Review	PH4110	15 credits	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond	Mand cond
Lie Groups and Lie Algebras	PH4205X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Statistical Mechanics	PH4211	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Phase Transitions	PH4215X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Advanced Quantum Theory	PH4226X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Relativistic Waves & Quantum Fields	PH4242X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Advanced Quantum Field Theory	PH4245X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Functional Methods in Quantum Field Theory	PH4246X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Formation & Evolution of Stellar Clusters	PH4319X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Advanced Physical Cosmology	PH4336X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Atom and Photon Physics	PH4421X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Advanced Photonics	PH4425X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Quantum Computation & Communication	PH4427X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Quantum Electronics of Nanostructures	PH4428X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Molecular Physics	PH4431X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Particle Physics	PH4442X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Particle Accelerator Physics	PH4450	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Order & Excitations in Condensed Matter	PH4472X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Theoretical Treatments of Nano-systems	PH4473X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Physics at the Nanoscale	PH4475	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Electronic Structure Methods	PH4476X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Computer Simulation in Condensed Matter	PH4477	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option

Superfluids, Condensates & Superconductors	PH4478	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Standard Model Physics & Beyond	PH4501X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Nuclear Magnetic Resonance	PH4512	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Statistical Data Analysis	PH4515	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
String Theory and Branes	PH4534X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Supersymmetry	PH4541X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Stellar Structure and Evolution	PH4600X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Cosmology	PH4601X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Relativity and Gravitation	PH4602X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
General Relativity and Cosmology	PH4604X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Astroparticle Cosmology	PH4605X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Electromagnetic Radiation in Astrophysics	PH4616X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Planetary Atmospheres	PH4630X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Solar Physics	PH4640X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Solar System	PH4650X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
The Galaxy	PH4660X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Astrophysical Plasmas	PH4670X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Space Plasma & Magnetospheric Physics	PH4680X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Extrasolar Planets & Astrophysical Discs	PH4690X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Environmental Remote Sensing	PH4702X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Molecular Biophysics	PH4800X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Theory of Complex Networks	PH4810X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Equilibrium Analysis of Complex Systems	PH4820X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Dynamical Analysis of Complex Systems	PH4830X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Mathematical Biology	PH4840X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option
Elements of Statistical Learning	PH4850X	15 credits	option	option	option	option	option

Physics options	x 15 credits	5	5	5	5	5
When choosing option courses you must be sure to satisfy any prerequisites.						

In Stages 3 and 4 students may choose, with advice, which courses they take in which years. This is largely a matter of personal choice, although a balance of courses between the first and second terms must be ensured. The topic of the Major Project PH4100 will be related to the specific degree programme.

[Back to top](#)

Progression and award requirements

The College's [Undergraduate Regulations](#) include full details on progression and award requirements for all undergraduate programmes offered by the College. Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two, three and four, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stages three and four.

However, on some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage or to qualify for a particular degree title and this will put restrictions on courses in which failing marks can be condoned (see programme structure above for details). Additionally there are requirements on the number of courses that must be passed in order to qualify for particular joint or combined Honours degrees. Students must pass PH1110 Mathematics for Scientists 1 and PH1120 Mathematics for Scientists 2 in order to progress to stage 2 and students must pass PH2130 Mathematical Methods and PH2210 Quantum Mechanics at the first attempt in order to progress to stage 3 of the MSci. In addition, to progress from stage two to the following stage the student must achieve at their first attempt an average calculated to two decimal places of 50.00% or above. To progress from stage 3 to stage 4 students must achieve at their first attempt a weighted average of 55.00% or above computed to two decimal places, where the second stage average is weighted as 1 and the third stage average is weighted as 2. Full details of progression requirements for the MSci award are given in the College's [Undergraduate Regulations](#).

If a Stage 3 student fails to progress onto Stage 4 and also fails to graduate with a BSc degree but passes PH3010 they are exempt from taking the Experimental or Theoretical Project (PH3110) when they resit or retake Stage 3. (This would be with the aim of graduating with a BSc.)

[Back to top](#)

Student support and guidance

- Personal Tutors: All students are allocated a personal tutor who meets with them regularly through the programme. The tutor's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. Students work closely with their personal tutors during the first year in tutorial groups of 3-5. There are similar sized tutorials in the second year. In the final year, academic matters are usually discussed with the Project supervisor in the first instance.
- Senior Tutor: provides a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice.
- Induction programme for orientation and introduction to study skills.
- Representation on the Staff-Student Committee.
- All staff available and accessible through open-door policy / dedicated office hours system.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources, much of which is available on electronically.
- Dedicated Departmental study/resource room, with computers, text-books and collection of articles and resources supporting teaching and learning.
- Dedicated Departmental computing facilities and teaching laboratories.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and computer centre.
- College Careers and Employability Service and Departmental Careers and Employability Tutor
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and

the Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties.

[Back to top](#)

Admission requirements

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on their [Course Finder](#) web page. However the Department also has considerable flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English language at an appropriate level. For further guidance it may also be useful to contact the [Recruitment and Partnerships Office](#).

[Back to top](#)

Further learning and career opportunities

The MSci is the degree of choice for those intending a professional scientific career. Students are provided with training in a range of subject-specific and transferable skills that prepare them for further study in physics or for entry into a wide range of both scientific and non-vocational careers. Students with appropriate degree classes will be well qualified to apply for entry to PhD research programmes here and elsewhere. The Physics Department offers PhD places in Particle Physics, Low Temperature Physics, Nanophysics, Condensed Matter Physics and other areas. Career opportunities for graduates include such areas as telecommunications, the IT industry, teaching, the civil service, industrial R&D.

Employers' needs are identified mainly from information provided by the Institute of Physics and its Professional Standards Committee. We also maintain contacts with alumni in various commercial companies.

For further details please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

[Back to top](#)

Indicators of quality and standards

The Department performs well in the various published league tables. In the 2013 National Student Survey we obtained a score of 100% in the category of 'Overall Student Satisfaction'.

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour and 3* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4* or 3* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. This results for the quality of our research outputs placed Royal Holloway 15th in the UK based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score and 20th in the UK for 4* and 3* research. The Department of Physics is ranked 35 in the UK for research of 4* standard and 24 for 3* and 4* research.

In 2012 all MSci teaching programmes in the Department were accredited by the Institute of Physics (IoP) for the purpose of fully meeting the educational requirement for becoming a Chartered Physicist.

[Back to top](#)

List of programmes with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements

All the programmes are taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, or (in the case of stage four courses) by staff of the University of London Intercollegiate MSci Physics Consortium, and lead to awards of the University of London. All single honours programmes are accredited by the Institute of Physics and the aims and outcomes reflect its Graduate Skills Base. The QAA subject benchmark statement in Physics describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Single Honours MSci Degree programmes in Physics

MSci Physics (F303)	Available full- or part-time
MSci Experimental Physics (F313)	Available full- or part-time
MSci Theoretical Physics (F321)	Available full- or part-time
MSci Astrophysics (F510)	Available full- or part-time
MSci Physics with Particle Physics (F372)	Available full- or part-time

[Back to top](#)