

An introduction to the subject

...Why is the sky at night dark?

...What happened at the Big Bang?

...How does the atom work?

...Do we understand quantum mechanics?

...Why are quarks only to be found in particles?

...What happens when materials are cooled to near absolute zero?

...How can we apply physics to problems of society?

These are just some of the many questions which a study of Physics sets out to answer. As students of Physics, which is at the heart of all sciences, we, all of us, find unending interest in working to understand these and many other questions. Our subject is the most fundamental of all sciences and underpins all the major technological advances in our society, which means that graduates of physics are highly sought after in many areas of industry. Career opportunities for our graduates are of course far more wide ranging than this. There is no other degree which provides such a varied opportunity for employment. Where else can you get a training that allows you to go and work in the financial market or design and build space hardware?

The School of Physics and Astronomy, which was awarded a grade five in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise in recognition of its international reputation for world class research, has a distinguished history of important discoveries in its 100 year life. The spirit of high quality research which continues in the research activities of our staff, infuses undergraduate teaching and encourages you to make choices in the areas of Physics that interest you.

Staff are active in a broad portfolio of research fields including Astronomy, Condensed Matter Physics, Molecular Physics, Nanoscale Physics, Nuclear and Particle Physics as well as Theoretical Physics. Courses in all of these topics and many more are available for our degree programmes, taught by internationally recognised experts. Our teaching is well respected, having been awarded 23 (out of 24) in the last assessment.

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