

# CAREERS IN PHYSICS



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## PHYSICS CAREERS

- Engineer
- Pharmacist
- Clinical Scientist
- Pharmacist
- Aeronautical Engineer

### ○ Jobs where a Physics degree would be useful include:

- Chartered certified accountant; technology
- Environmental consultant ; engineering
- Higher education lecturer / teacher

Physics degrees have a good reputation and are very popular amongst employers because graduates are numerate, with excellent problem solving and analytical skills.

## WHERE TO FIND JOB ADVERTS FOR PHYSICS

[www.iop.org](http://www.iop.org)  
[www.spacecareers.uk](http://www.spacecareers.uk)  
[www.lifescience.net](http://www.lifescience.net)  
[iobs.newscientist.com](http://iobs.newscientist.com)

## PHYSICS DEGREES

Subjects to study at A Level:

Chemistry, Mathematics (if maths not taken at A Level, then some degrees require an A at Mathematics GCSE), Physics and Biology.

Wider reading:

- *Universe in a Nutshell* – S. Hawking
- *The Elegant Universe* - B. Greene
- *The Feynman lectures* have just been published as two books

## Top universities

The top10 UK universities for Physics according to the Complete University Guide are:

1. St Andrews
2. Cambridge
3. Oxford
4. Durham
5. Warwick
6. Lancaster
7. Leeds
8. Birmingham
9. Nottingham
10. Manchester

Check [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) website for entry requirements to these universities.

## Useful websites:

- The Institute of Physics -[www.iop.org](http://www.iop.org)
- <http://www.howstuffworks.com/>(link is external) Explains thousands of topics, from engines to lock-picking
- <http://www.ehow.com/>(link is external) Learn how to do just about everything at eHow
- <http://www.badspace.net/>(link is external) Ben Goldacre's column from The Guardian in a weblog format
- <http://www.ted.com/>(link is external) "Riveting talks by remarkable people, free to the world"
- <http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/hph.html>(link is external) Educational videos suitable for the classroom
- <http://www.nature.com/nature/podcast/>(link is external) Podcast: NPR Science Friday
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qyyb>(link is external) Podcast: BBC Material World
- <http://www.senseaboutscience.org.uk/>(link is external) Sense about Science
- <http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/>(link is external) NASA Solar System photojournal
- <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/>(link is external) NASA image galleries
- <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/>(link is external) Astronomy Picture of the Day
- <http://www.stellarium.org/>(link is external) A free open source planetarium for your computer
- <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/badastronomy/>(link is external) Blog: Bad Astronomy
- <http://www.planetary.org/blog/>(link is external) Blog: Planetary Society
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/jonathanamos/>(link is external) Blog: BBC Jonathan Amos
- <http://www.sixtysymbols.com/>(link is external) Physics and Astronomy video series from the University of Nottingham
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyRqcebnFT0>(link is external) A video explaining the science at Square

## \*\*\*TOP TIP\*\*\*

Sometimes, during your first year at university it is possible to switch onto other Physics courses (within the same university/ department) which asked for higher entry requirements than the course you are on!

## GRADUATE PROSPECTS

Independent research shows that the average Physics graduate earns substantially more over a lifetime than graduates of many other disciplines. A degree in chemistry could increase your lifetime earnings by £190,000 compared to what you could achieve with two A Levels, and by £60,000 compared to most other graduates.

### Internships and Work Experience:

The National Particle Physics Masterclass is a series of one day events run by practicing particle physics researchers at various institutions all over the country.

The Institute of Physics arranges 'Physics in Perspective' an enrichment course for sixth formers and college students every spring term in London.

Applying for a Nuffield Science bursary scheme would give you the opportunity to work alongside scientists or engineers on physics based projects.



## CELEBRITIES WHO STUDIED PHYSICS

Charlotte Church / Ann Hathaway / Tiger Woods / Dara O'Briain / Mayim Bialik /  
Angela Merkel

