Department of Physics
The University of Hong Kong

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What will I learn studying physics at university?

• Understanding the world (How things work?)
• Discovering relationships
• Quantitative thinking
• Hands on experience with wide range of equipment
• Problem identification and solving
• Designing research plans
• Communication skills (oral presentation, writing ...) 
• Working really hard

😊

⚠️
Research into academic background of non-physics Nobel Prize winners, starting from most recent (2017)

Richard Henderson
Nobel Prize Chemistry 2017
BSc degree (Edinburgh) in Physics (1966)

James Rothman
Nobel Prize Medicine 2013
BSc degree (Yale) in Physics (1971)

Bengt Holmström
Nobel Prize Economics 2016
BSc degree (Helsinki) in Physics, Theoretical Physics, Mathematics, Statistics (1972)
Elon Musk
BSc degree (Penn.)
in **Physics** (1997)
Majors and Minors

- **Physics Major (96 credits; 16 courses)**
  - Large flexibility in curriculum, lead to diverse career paths

- **Astronomy Minor (36 credits; 6 courses)**

- **Physics Minor (42 credits; 7 courses)**
Majors and Minors

Physics Major (96 credits; 2 SCNC + 6 intro + 8 advance courses)

- Aim: Educating all-rounded physics students which best fit their interest and expertise
- Large flexibility in curriculum, lead to diverse career paths
- New curriculum structure for students entering this year!
  - Learn the “physics skill set” first:
    - Mathematics, problem-solving, model-building, computing
  - Follow with core courses for physics undergraduates:
    - Introductory level (Years 1 and 2): fully integrating usage of calculus and vectors; stress daily life connections
    - Advanced level (Years 3 and 4): formal training in physics with more abstraction and advanced mathematics
Physics Major Year 1 and 2

Required

PHYS 1150 Problem Solving*

PHYS 2150 Method in physics I*

PHYS 2155 Method in physics II*

Skill Set Courses

- Computing
- Mathematics
- Model building
- Problem solving

Introductory Core Courses

- Calculus-based physics incorporated with vectors
- Stress daily-life connection
- Mechanics, Electricity & magnetism, Heat & thermodynamics, Quantum physics

PHYS 2250 Intro Mechanics
PHYS 2261 Intro Thermal
PHYS 2255 Intro E&M
PHYS 2260 Intro Quantum

PHYS 2055 Intro relativity*

* Select 2 out of 4
Physics Major Year 3 and 4

Advanced Core Courses
• Formal training in physics with more abstraction
  • Advanced mathematical skills required
  • Core undergraduate physics education

Selection of Themes
(1) Course cluster to build expertise in specific area
(2) Capstone project related to the theme
(3) Enhanced training in physics for postgraduate studies

Astrophysics Theme
Astronomy laboratory
Cosmology
Interstellar medium
Observational astronomy
Planetary science ...

Computational Physics Theme
Computational physics
Data analysis & modeling in physics
Machine learning in physics
Theoretical physics ...

Experimental Physics Theme
Atomic & nuclear physics
Laser & spectroscopy
Physics laboratory
Physical optics
Solid state physics ...

Theoretical Physics Theme
Adv. electromagnetism
Adv. quantum mechanics
General relativity
Particle physics
Theoretical physics ...
Four optional themes for physics majors

- **Optional** for students (may choose 0, 1 or 2 themes)

  - Cluster of courses to build expertise in specific areas
  - Enhanced training to prepare for postgraduate studies *(Important factor in postgraduate admission consideration)*
  - Department issues certificate to graduates upon completion

**Themes:**
- Astrophysics
- Computational Physics
- Experimental Physics
- Theoretical Physics
Capstone Experience

• All HKU students need capstone to graduate
• Students **had to fulfill the 24 credits advanced level core course requirement in the major before taking the capstone course**
• The **earliest** that students are allowed to take capstone course is their **year 3** study
• Capstone offered by Physics Department:
  • PHYS4988 Physics Project (12 credits; full year)
  • PHYS3999 Directed Studies in Physics (6 credits; one semester)
  • PHYS4966 Physics Internship (6 credits; **offered in summer only**; AND the 24-credit prerequisite requirement fulfilled before the start of the internship)
Majors and Minors

Astronomy Minor (36 credits; 3 intro + 3 advance courses)

• Aim: Provide interested students with a fundamental outlook on the subject, with minimal physics requirements

• New curriculum structure for students entering this year!
  - Introductory level courses (18 credits):
    - PHYS 1650 Nature of the Universe
    - PHYS 2650 Modern Astronomy (new course!)
    - PHYS 1250 Fundamental Physics or PHYS 2055 Intro Relativity or EASC 2408 Planetary Geology
  - Advanced level courses (18 credits):
    - PHYS 3650 Observational Astronomy
    - Two Advanced astronomy electives

• REMINDER: Watch out for pre-requisite requirements!
Study astronomy in HKU

• **Question:** If I want to study astronomy in HKU, should I select the **Major in Physics with Astrophysics theme**, **Major-Minor combination of Physics and Astronomy**, or the **Minor in Astronomy**?

• **Answer:**
  – If you just want a taste in astronomy, then select **Minor in Astronomy**
  – If you are interested to pursue postgraduate research in astronomy/astrophysics, then EITHER **Major in Physics with Astrophysics theme** OR **Major-Minor combination of Physics and Astronomy** would be good
  – *Slightly more restriction for the theme*: a 4000-level course, a project in astronomy
Majors and Minors

Physics Minor (42 credits; 4 intro + 3 advance courses)

• Aim: Provide interested students with a fundamental outlook on the subject, with great flexibility to explore one’s interest

• New curriculum structure for students entering this year!
  
  ❖ Introductory level courses (24 credits):
    - PHYS 1250 Fundamental Physics
    - Three introductory physics electives
    - PHYS1150, PHYS2055, PHYS2150, PHYS2155, PHYS2250, PHYS2255, PHYS2261, PHYS2265

  ❖ Advanced level courses (18 credits):
    - Any three advanced level physics courses

• REMINDER: Watch out for pre-requisite requirements!
Majors and Minors

• The courses required (hence, the number of credits) for the Major listed in the BSc syllabus is the minimum.

• Need more for research postgraduate studies! Ask your Course Selection Advisor for details.
Course Selection Road Map for students entering as Year 1 in 2018-19

Click the “Current Students” link at the top
Sample Major in Physics

Year 1 & 2 Curriculum (minimum)

For students with
(1) HKDSE Physics AND
(2) HKDSE Extended Mathematics Module 1 or Module 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS1150 Problem Solving</td>
<td>PHYS2150 Method in Physics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>PHYS2255 Intro Elect &amp; Magnetism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>PHYS2250 Intro Mechanics</td>
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<td>XXX</td>
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</table>

** For reference only, should consult your course schedule with Course Selection Advisor
# Sample Major in Physics

## Year 1 & 2 Curriculum (minimum)

For students with
(1) HKDSE Physics AND
(2) HKDSE Extended Mathematics Module 1 or Module 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MATH1011 University Maths I</td>
<td>PHYS1150 Problem Solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS1250 Fundamental Physics</td>
<td>XXX</td>
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<td>XXX</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>PHYS2150 Method in Physics I</td>
<td>PHYS2255 Intro Elect &amp; Magnetism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PHYS2250 Intro Mechanics</td>
<td>PHYS2265 Intro Quantum Physics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PHYS2261 Intro Thermal Physics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Not counted towards Major requirements**

**For reference only, should consult your course schedule with Course Selection Advisor**
Sample Major in Physics

Year 1 & 2 Curriculum (intensive)

For students with
(1) HKDSE Physics AND
(2) HKDSE Extended Mathematics Module 1 or Module 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1</strong></td>
<td>PHYS1150 Problem Solving</td>
<td>PHYS2250 Intro Mechanics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>PHYS2055 Intro Relativity or PHYS2255 Intro Elect &amp; Magnetism</td>
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<td>XXX</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2</strong></td>
<td>PHYS2150 Method in Physics I</td>
<td>PHYS2155 Method in Physics II</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PHYS2261 Intro Thermal Physics</td>
<td>PHYS2055 or PHYS2255</td>
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<td>PHYS2265 Intro Quantum Physics</td>
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</table>

** For reference only, should consult your course schedule with Course Selection Advisor
**Sample Major in Physics (astrophysics theme) OR Major in Physics & Minor in Astronomy**

**Year 1 & 2 Curriculum**

For students with
(1) HKDSE Physics AND
(2) HKDSE Extended Mathematics Module 1 or Module 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1</strong></td>
<td>PHYS1150 Problem Solving</td>
<td>PHYS2250 Intro Mechanics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS1650 Nature of the Universe</td>
<td>PHYS2255 Intro Relativity or EASC2408 Planetary Geology</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>XXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2</strong></td>
<td>PHYS2150 Method in Physics I</td>
<td>PHYS2255 Intro Elect &amp; Magnetism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS2261 Intro Thermal Physics</td>
<td>PHYS2265 Intro Quantum Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>PHYS2650 Modern Astronomy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>XXX</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**For reference only, should consult your course schedule with Course Selection Advisor**
Course Selection Flow Charts

Below provides the course selection advices for some career choices for Physics students. For each career choice, you would find a flow chart showing the recommended courses for each career.

* The course labeled in pink are compulsory.
* The flow charts are for 4-yr cohort students admitted between 2015-16 and 2017-18.
* Please note that the flow chats are some general recommendation only. You are encouraged to contact our course selection advisors directly to obtain the personalized course selection advices.
* If you have questions on a particular course, you are encouraged to contact course coordinator directly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Career Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math/Phy</td>
<td>Research (Theoretical)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Research (Experimental)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Selection Flow Charts for students entering as Year 3 in 2018-19
Advices for students who intends to do research after graduation

- **Keep your eyes wide open** – learn more about different sub-branches of physics

- **Learn about the surroundings** – find out more about the research being done in the Department (webpage, seminars, talk to teachers, ...) [http://www.physics.hku.hk/research](http://www.physics.hku.hk/research)

- **Watch out for emails** – get on the email list of the department (if you have declared or if you incline to declare majors) because information about many learning programs are announced this way

- **Give it a try!** – the only way to find out whether you like or you are capable to do research is to try doing it
Selected research areas & facilities

• Experimental condensed matter and material science
  → characterizations and applications of low dimensional materials
  → novel optical properties of semiconductor nanostructures
  → optoelectronics and nanomaterials
  → wide band gap semiconductor systems: Electrical and optical properties, defects
  → thin film of novel materials and advanced microelectronic devices
  → surface science: growth and surfaces of novel quantum materials

→ Facilities: Material Physics Lab, Thin Film Lab, Semiconductor Lab, Optoelectronics and Nanomaterial Lab, Laser Spectroscopy Lab
Selected research areas & facilities

• Theoretical Atomic and Condensed Matter Physics
  → strongly interacting quantum many-body systems: correlated quantum phases and phase transitions
  → strongly correlated electron systems
  → topological quantum materials
  → quantum magnetism
  → spintronics and valleytronics
  → quantum transport
  → semiconductor optics
  → interdisciplinary study of cold atom physics and condensed matter physics
Selected research areas & facilities

• Observational Astrophysics
  → late stage stellar evolution: SNR, planetary nebulae
  → stellar formation and cooling flows in galaxy clusters
  → magnetars and pulsar wind nebulae
  → Cosmology: cosmic microwave background, large scale structure
  → **Facility:** HKU observatory (0.4m reflector, radio telescope)
  → **Facility:** access to ground-based and space observatories: ALMA, EVLA, ATCA, BICEP, Chandra, XMM-Newton, Hubble, Fermi, ...

• Theoretical Astrophysics
  → High energy emission from neutron stars and pulsars
  → Dynamical evolution of planetary bodies
Selected research areas & facilities

• Quantum Computing and Information Theory
  → Quantum cryptology
  → Quantum key distribution, quantum error-correction codes

• Experimental Nuclear Physics
• Experimental High Energy Particle Physics
Outside classroom Learning opportunities: Physics Department Summer Internship Program

**Program:** ~20% of our final year students participate every year

**Requirement:** 6-8 weeks in academic / non-academic overseas or locally

**Overseas:** Princeton Univ (w/ Prof D. Tsui 崔琦教授), Cambridge Univ (w/ Prof Littlewood), Harvard Univ, Stanford Univ (w/ Profs S. Doniach, S.C. Zhang, R. W. Romani), ETH Zurich (w/ Prof T.M. Rice), Mullard Space Science Laboratory UCL (w/ Prof K. Wu and G. Aeppli), UC Berkeley (w/ Prof. F. Wang), UCLA, CERN, Caltech (w/ Prof. Y.L. Yung)

**Local:** HK Observatory, HK Space Museum, HK Science Museum, Ho Koon Nature Education cum Astronomical Centre, Cinotech Consulting Ltd

**Education:** Cheung Sha Wan Catholic Secondary School, St Francis of Assisi’s College, Yu Chun Keung Memorial College No. 2
Outside classroom Learning opportunities:

**CAPSTONE: Overseas Summer Research Fellowship (6-8 weeks)**

- Participants engage in research fields of their own choosing; Physics Department *match interest with researchers*
- Reimbursement up to $12,000 per participant

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2016 summer

Edward Yang  
(experimental neutrino physics) with Prof John Tseng, **Univ of Oxford**

2017 summer

Jimmy Lee  
(experimental particle physics) Prof Aurelio Juste, **ICREA, Spain**  
(Work @ CERN)**
Outside classroom Learning opportunities:
CAPSTONE: PHYS4966 Physics Internship (6-8 weeks)

- Participants engage in actual work to apply their book knowledge
- Department arranged for selected candidates to be interviewed by the institution

Wong Wing (HK Space Museum); Chan Man Yiu, Lam Ka Fai (HK Science Museum)

Tam Chi Kin (Ho Koon Astronomical Centre)
Outside classroom learning opportunities:

**CAPSTONE: PHYS4966 Physics internship (6-8 weeks)**

- Participants engage in actual work to apply their book knowledge
- Department arranged for selected candidates to be interviewed by the institution

Minnie Wu & Fung Kin Ming (Yu Chun Keung No 2 Memorial College) 2017

Wong Wae Ming (Cheung Sha Wan Catholic Secondary School) 2016
Outside classroom Learning opportunities:

NON-CAPSTONE: Undergraduate Overseas Experiential Learning Activities (~1-2 weeks)

1. Summer School on Observational Astronomy (June 2018)

Lectures and hands-on projects (Airfare + local expenses subsidized)

Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, (Heidelberg, Germany); June 2018

10 HKU students (mostly Year 3 or 4) who have taken Astronomy courses
Outside classroom Learning opportunities:
NON-CAPSTONE: Undergraduate Overseas Experiential Learning Activities (~1-2 weeks)

2. Summer School on Nuclear Physics at RIKEN, Japan (July 2018) Together with Peking University and Seoul National University (Airfare + local expense subsidized)

6 HKU students who attended nuclear physics enrichment training before
Career Prospects

Government:
- Administrative Officer
- Executive Officer
- Scientific Officer (HK Observatory)
- Physicist (Health Department)

Industry & Commercial Firms:
- Assistant Manager
- Staff Accountant
- Computer Programmer
- Financial Consultant
- Researcher

Companies include: HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank, Sino Group, others include publishing, communication, logistics companies, etc.

Education:
- School Teachers

Research:
- Postgraduate Studies
How did our 2016 Physics, Astronomy, and Math/Physics graduates do?

2016 Graduates

Educational Institutions
- Research Assistant
  City University of Hong Kong
- Teaching Assistant
  Society of Boys' Centres Chak Yan Centre School

Commerce and Industry
- Lab Technician
  CMA Industrial Development Foundation Limited
- Database Programmer
  DBP Solutions Limited

Others 17%
Further Studies 13%
Employed 70%
How did our 2015 Physics, Astronomy, and Math/Physics graduates do?

2015 Graduates

- Civil Service
  - Enumerator
  - HKSAR - Census and Statistics Department

- Educational Institutions
  - Research Assistant
  - City University of Hong Kong

- Commerce and Industry
  - Technician
  - Artcom Computer Project Co Ltd
  - Associate Relationship Manager
  - MetLife, Inc.

Others 6%
Further Studies 27%
Employed 67%
How did our 2014 Physics, Astronomy, and Math/Physics graduates do?

2014 Graduates

Educational Institutions
- Research Assistant
  The University of Hong Kong

Commerce and Industry
- Project Engineer
  ASM Pacific Technology Ltd.
- Engineer Trainer
  Quon Hing Concrete Company Limited

Employed 70%
Further Studies 25%
Others 5%
Final advice on course selection

• Plan ahead beyond your 1st year, watch out for semester(s) the course is offered
• PHYS2150/2155 Methods in Physics I/II are essential
• Take more credits to better equip for research
• Questions? Come talk to us
  – Course Selection Advisors
    [http://www.physics.hku.hk/students/course-information/guideline1819](http://www.physics.hku.hk/students/course-information/guideline1819)
  – Student Peer Advisers (Thomas Wong, Christina Zhao, Adilet Uvaliyev)
Student Peer Advisers in 2018-19

• General roles
  – to **offer advice** in relation to academic studies to freshmen; and
  – to **facilitate** freshmen’s **smooth transition** from secondary to university education

• You are highly encouraged to contact the following **Student Peer Advisers (SPAs)** if you have any questions about your study (their contacts can be found at the Faculty’s website)
  – Mr Adilet UVALIYEV (BSc Year 2)
  – Mr Thomas WONG Hong Tsun (BSc Year 3)
  – Miss Christina ZHAO Qingqing (BSc Year 3)

Let’s talk to our SPAs!
Physics Society
Department of Physics, The University of Hong Kong

【開Sem飯 Open Sem Rice】

Posted on January 21, 2018

(Please scroll down for English version)

「『100萬既問題！』
有咩嘅回報一樣好快無？」

「Sem bread」

「答係…係無咩」

「恭喜你 我真係恭喜你地獲嘅100萬」

而家揾廣告先『』

（～假期間從我心中溜走
變成了一切的無奈和不捨～～～～～～）

起身吧 順手開Sem飯吧