

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for HKU's MSc in the field of Physics

(I) Admissions

Q: What are the entrance requirements of the MSc in the field of Physics? Can I apply if I have an undergraduate degree not in Physics or Astronomy?

A: The requirement for the program is a good Bachelor degree with Honours in a relevant science and engineering discipline. We welcome and expect applicants with a wide range of academic backgrounds, NOT restricted to Physics or Astronomy.

Q: What are the application procedures?

A: The application to the MSc in the field of Physics will be administered through the HKU Admissions Office. Please refer to the website (<https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/>) for details. You may also refer to the FAQ for general HKU Taught Postgraduate Admissions at <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/faq>.

Q: Do I need to email you a copy of the application materials?

A: There is no need to email us to confirm your on-line submission. Once you have received a confirmation number through email from the system, it means that your application has been received. Only documents uploaded to the online application system will be viewed. We will contact you individually if any problem arises (such as missing documents).

Q: When will you start to review the applications?

A: The application period for 2023-24 admission will begin on November 30, 2022. We will start to review the applications immediately after the application period begins, and will contact selected candidates for interviews, to be conducted online for the 2023-24 admission. You will be informed of the results of your application as soon as possible.

Q: I meet the above-mentioned entrance requirements. Does it mean that I would get an offer automatically if I apply for the program?

A: The competition for a place in the MSc in the field of Physics is strong, therefore meeting the entrance requirements does not guarantee an admission offer. However, we consider all applications holistically. Thus, applicants with relevant academic background, working experience, and passion towards the intended field of study, will be favorably reviewed.

Q: Do I need to provide reference letters in support of my application?

A: Reference letter is/are welcome but not compulsory, and you could choose whether to provide reference letters in your supporting documents. If you wish to provide reference letters as the supporting documents of your application, please use the following method:

- After you have successfully submitted the application, you can input information of the TWO referees through the Online Application. The University will send email invitations to the referees for completing the Online Reference Form via a designated online platform within four weeks from the date of successful submission of application.

Reference letters submitted using other methods would not be reviewed during the selection process.

(II) Academics

Q: When does the semester start and finish?

A: We will be following HKU's standard semester timetable. Semester 1 usually starts in early-September while Semester 2 usually starts in mid-January.

Q: What time do the classes meet?

A: Subject to timing tabling constraints, lectures are prioritized to be scheduled mostly in the mornings and afternoons in weekdays. There may be special learning sessions scheduled on evenings for some courses, and the schedule will be announced early in the semester.

Q: Are tutorials compulsory and how many will there be?

A: Tutorial is an important learning component for the courses as they provide opportunities for you to deepen your learning and to apply what you learn in lectures in practical settings. Each course coordinator will set their own tutorial requirements but as a guide, you may expect ~6 - 8 tutorials per course. While attendance in tutorials is not compulsory, we believe it is in your best interest to fully engage in the lectures and tutorial for maximum learning experience.

(III) Covid-19 related issues

Q: Given the current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, will the courses be offered face-to-face or online in 2023-24?

A: The default plan for the program remains to offer all the learning modules in a face-to-face manner. HKU will continually evaluate the situation to decide on the teaching and learning mode in academic year 2023-24.

Q: How will the courses be affected if teaching is moved online in 2023-24?

A: The program is fully ready to switch to online learning via the multifaceted learning platforms available at HKU (<https://moodle-support.hku.hk/>)

(IV) Miscellaneous

Q: Does the MSc in the field of Physics qualify for the “Tertiary Student Finance Scheme” (TSFS) or the “Targeted Taught Postgraduate Programme Fellowship Scheme” (for local Hong Kong applicants) in 2023-24?

A: No, our program qualifies for neither of these schemes.