

Programme change proposals

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises these changes.

Programme(s)	<p>Stage 1 Programmes</p> <p><u>Bachelor of Science</u></p> <p>BSc Mathematics and Physics (3 year)</p> <p>BSc Mathematics and Physics with a Year in Europe (4 year)</p> <p>BSc Physics</p> <p>BSc Physics with a year abroad/in industry (4 year)</p> <p>BSc Physics with Astrophysics</p> <p>BSc Physics with Astrophysics with a year abroad/in industry (4 year)</p> <p>BSc Physics with Philosophy</p> <p>BSc Physics with Philosophy with a year abroad (4 year)</p> <p>BSc Theoretical Physics</p> <p>BSc Theoretical Physics with a year abroad/in industry (4 year)</p> <p><u>Masters degrees</u></p> <p>MMath Mathematics and Physics (4year)</p> <p>MPhys Mathematics and Physics (4 year)</p> <p>MPhys Physics (4 year)</p> <p>MPhys Physics with Astrophysics (4 year)</p> <p>MPhys Physics with Astrophysics with a year abroad/in industry (5 year)</p> <p>MPhys Theoretical Physics (4 year)</p> <p>MPhys Theoretical Physics with a year abroad/in industry</p> <p>MPhys with a year abroad/in industry (5 year)</p> <p>MPhys Physics and Philosophy</p> <p>See: https://www.york.ac.uk/students/studying/manage/programmes/programme-specs/undergraduate/physics/ </p>
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Summary of Overall Plans

You, as a Physics student (Single or Joint Honours) develop many practical, transferable, and knowledge-based skills throughout your academic journey in order to earn an Institute of Physics (IOP) accredited degree.

In these extraordinary times we must adapt our teaching and learning to be both robust and flexible. We will deliver as many of our activities as possible face-to-face, with online provision when that can't happen. We also recognise that there is great value in the face-to-face (F2F) teaching sessions and meetings because bespoke feedback on your work is available during these high-value practical activities and richly-rewarding final year projects. You will also have dedicated personal support throughout your studies.

We have needed to carefully design alterations to our programmes based on student experiences this past year and your position in our programme relative to the programme learning outcomes. Our overall plans for your teaching and learning in the Autumn term, and some indication for the remainder of the year, are outlined below.

We want to welcome you into our Physics Learning Community and the University culture as well as prepare you to engage with our core physics knowledge in the first two years of your study. We recognise the disruption some of you may have experienced in your studies this past year and are prepared to support you with as much face-to-face teaching as possible as you travel through your physics degree.

- You will have individual face-to-face meetings with your personal supervisor at the start, middle, and end of the term for bespoke academic guidance on your progress.
- Your supervisor also leads your supervision groups in Stage 1, consisting of face-to-face seminars or online webinars, which may be composed of students in the same programme as you in order to enhance relationship building and peer learning. These regular group meetings with your supervisor can provide you with specific feedback on your assessments and formative work.
- In Stage 2, small group teaching will be led by academics who may not be your supervisor. These sessions will provide you with bespoke feedback during practical work.

- This personal interaction with a leading academic makes the York programme distinct and enhances your learning experience.
- Students on campus will be able to engage with the face-to-face seminars and supervision meetings. Webinars and online versions of face-to-face meetings are available for remote students as well as students on-campus who need this provision.
- **Lectures** in the Autumn term will be recorded and made available to you. We will encourage you to participate in watch parties or engage with the recorded lectures at your own pace. Your lecturers will have open online drop-in sessions so that you can meet with them.
- **Laboratories:** We have worked hard to maximise laboratory-based activities as these align strongly with our programme learning outcomes. Labs may be severely constrained by space limitations due to social distancing, but we have innovative plans to ensure you have access to high quality practical work in a safe environment.

Joint Honours partner departments

- **Mathematics and Physics** - Mathematics programme structure has evolved with the recorded lectures, face-to-face or online seminars, and office hours similar to our Physics programme. Note that you complete your laboratory work in Term 1 for your degree. You will carry out labs face-to face as usual in Term 1 as this can be conducted with appropriate social distancing.
- **Physics with Philosophy** - Philosophy programme structure has evolved with the recorded lectures and face-to-face or online seminars similar to our Physics programme. They have introduced 'bridging' activities in addition to seminars and recorded lecture material. These may vary from module to module but might include quizzes or worksheets. Note that you complete your laboratory work in Term 1 for your degree. You will carry out labs face-to face as usual in Term 1 as this can be conducted with appropriate social distancing.
- **Natural Science** - You do not take our Stage 1 Physics Laboratories and will have assessments as usual..

We have carefully modified our pattern of learning and teaching, practical and laboratory work, and student support with face-to-face teaching and remote

learning sessions to ensure that your skills develop and that you meet our module learning outcomes. In this way, you will be full members of our Learning Community and be prepared for Stage 2 and your remaining journey with us in your physics degree.

Programme Structures

Stage 1 has typically had three options for students. Two options feed into our specialist programmes (computational for Theory students and astronomical for Physics with Astrophysics students).

Physics single honours students can select between these and the optional **Human uses of Energy**. This module does not feed into any programme and we are proposing to suspend it for the year so that the ideas and concepts are more fully examined, updated, and integrated into our programme learning outcomes. You will be able to choose between the other two options after you have arrived in York and had a chance to experience some teaching and discussed your choice with your supervisor.

Further changes or information of note

Physics with Astrophysics students have unique access to our on-campus observatory, Astrocampus. Students will have specialist astrophysics learning in the Mapping the Universe module, in a group project in the laboratory, and will receive observatory access training during the academic year when this can be safely delivered.

We have communicated our planned support of learning and teaching, research work, and student support with the Institute of Physics and have their full support regarding the accreditation of our degrees in Physics.