

Study with us

About your course

Courses covered

| Code | Title |
|-------|------------------|
| PEAPM | MSc Astrophysics |

You can find full details of your course in the *Programme Specification*.

Important points

- This course is run by the department of Physics Astronomy and Mathematics, and taught by staff from PAM's Centre for Astrophysics Research (CAR) – a research group with an international reputation. The expertise of CAR researchers focuses on observational astronomy across the full range of the electromagnetic spectrum (from X-rays to radio). The research spans many size scales, ranging from the properties of dust grains, up through stars and extra-solar planets through to entire galaxies and clusters of galaxies in the near- and high-redshift Universe. Survey astronomy is a particular strength. CAR computing facilities also permit extensive in-house computer modelling and simulation.
- The University's Bayfordbury Observatory is a highlight of the teaching programme. Students use the observatory to study a wide range of astrophysical phenomena ranging from extra-solar planets to distant galaxy clusters, and processes across many scales from the orbits of earth-crossing asteroids to the expansion of the universe. The observatory has eight individual domes next to a fully equipped computer building, with the domes housing five 40cm Meade telescopes (with CCD detectors), a solar telescope, and a video telescope. In addition there are 4 radio telescopes (which also facilitates a 3 element radio interferometer). The facilities are automated (with weather sensitive control) so observing can be done remotely (via queue observing) or directly through on-site student visits.
- The normal entry requirements for the programme are a good (2.1 or 1st class) Honours degree (or equivalent) in physics, astrophysics, or a closely related subject, where the degree is accredited by a Professional Statutory Regulatory Body such as the IoP (or a body of equivalent standing in a related subject or overseas).
- The MSc Astrophysics degree (1 year full-time or 2 years part-time) is structured to have 90 credits of core level 7 taught modules and a 60 credit level 7 project in semester C (or in year 2 for the part-time route), as well as 30 credits of optional modules at level 6 / level 7.
- The award of an 'MSc Astrophysics' degree requires 180 credit points (of which at least 150 credits must be at level 7, and up to 30 credits can be at level 6), and that the 'Astrophysics Masters Project' is passed.

Academic Year

Academic Year 2021 – 2022

The University's academic year is made up of 3 Semesters. Normally most undergraduate programmes use Semesters A and B, additionally postgraduate programmes and specific undergraduate programmes use Semester C. Each of these is made up of teaching weeks followed by exams (the re-sit period falls within Semester C).

- Semester A runs from Monday 27 September 2021 to Friday 21 January 2022
- Semester B runs from Monday 24 January 2022 to Friday 13 May 2022
- Semester C runs from Monday 16 May 2022 to Friday 09 September 2022

Additional expenses

| Description | Year | Mandatory/ Optional | Estimated cost |
|--------------------------------------|------|------------------------|---|
| Texts to support curriculum | 1 | Optional | Undergraduate study requires extensive reading and access to reference works. Recommended texts are available in the Learning Resource Centre either as ebooks or printed material. Please note that availability of printed material may be limited so students may wish to purchase their own copies. The average price of a recommended text is £50, although you may be able to buy second-hand copies. |
| Travel costs for off-site practicals | 1 | Mandatory | Transport to scheduled practicals at our off-site observatory is provided free of charge by the School. |