What makes Glasgow a university worth choosing?

The University of Glasgow is 62nd in the world (2015 QS World University Rankings).

The University of Glasgow came top in Scotland in the 2015 National Student Survey, and 3rd among all the UK's Russell Group institutions.

We are in the top ten percent of institutions worldwide (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015).

We are rated 11th in the Times Higher Education Best UK Universities 2016.

We are a member of the prestigious Russell Group of major research-led universities and a founder member of Universitas 21, an international grouping of universities dedicated to setting worldwide standards for higher education.

With over two million books on 12 floors we have one of the best academic libraries in Europe.

Entry requirements

A typical offer to:
SQA Highers: at S5, AAAA or AAABB; at S6, AAAAA.
A-Levels: AAB
These must include Physics and Mathematics at A or B grades.

For faster-route entry (leading to a BSc in 3 years and an MSci in 4 years), indicative grades (in a single sitting) are:
SQA Advanced Highers: AAA with A in Physics and Mathematics.
A-Levels: AAA in Physics, Mathematics, and Further Mathematics.

Find out more

For enquiries specific to undergraduate study in Physics and Astronomy, contact our undergraduate admissions tutors:

phone: +44 (0) 141 330 4709
email: physics-ugadmissions@glasgow.ac.uk
astronomy-ugadmissions@glasgow.ac.uk
web: www.gla.ac.uk/physics

Visit one of our open days, in September, March and June each year.

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www.gla.ac.uk/physics

Physics & Astronomy

www.gla.ac.uk/physics
Welcome to Physics & Astronomy at the University of Glasgow

Widen your horizons. Choose the University of Glasgow.

Why physics and astronomy?
Studying physics and/or astronomy demonstrates to a potential employer that you are numerate, and have problem-solving skills, teamwork experience, capacity for complex and logical thought, and the ability to apply abstract concepts to the real world.

Our home
We are located in the Kelvin Building, on the main University site at Gilmorehill in Glasgow’s vibrant West End. The department has many associations with Nobel-prize winning researchers in physics, including Lord Kelvin, after whom the unit of absolute temperature is named.

Research
Our academic staff are not only teachers, but also world-class researchers in diverse areas of physics, including astrophysics, gravitation, particle and nuclear physics, quantum theory, optics and condensed matter physics, and optics & imaging.

Student societies
We have two student-run societies in the School of Physics and Astronomy. They run an active programme of social events and talks of general interest in astronomy and physics.

Undergraduate facilities
Lectures are held in well-equipped lecture theatres in the Kelvin Building and other locations on the Gilmorehill site. Top quality undergraduate laboratory facilities are available, having recently undergone a multi-million pound renovation, and the University’s own observatory is close by in the West End.

Degree programmes
Students who include Physics or Astronomy in their degrees usually graduate with an Honours (BSc) degree after 4 years of study, or a Masters (MSci) degree after 5 years. For students with exceptional grades, direct entry into second year is offered for some of our programmes, enabling the degree to be completed in a shorter time. All degrees are accredited by the Institute of Physics, and other professional institutions.

Choice and flexibility are key to the degree programmes at the University of Glasgow. For example,:
- In your first year you choose three subjects, e.g., Physics, Chemistry and Maths. This opens up multiple options for your final Honours degree.
- In your Honours years your course will be either single or joint honours.
- Single Honours possibilities include Physics, Theoretical Physics, Physics with Astrophysics, and Chemical Physics.
- Various Joint Honours combinations are possible, including Physics and Astronomy, or Physics and Maths.

Benefits from a flexible degree structure, optimised for student choice and leading to BSc Honours degrees in three or four years, and MSci Honours degrees in four or five years.

Come to a vibrant city to study on our highly-rated programme, in an internationally leading research environment.

Widen your horizons to careers in science & engineering, research, teaching, finance, and many other areas.

Highlights of our courses
- Frontiers in Physics - a Level 1 module highlighting the latest developments in cutting-edge research, and their impact on the world around us.
- A wide range of transferable skills training, culminating in a 3rd year course run in cooperation with local industry.
- Round-the-clock access to state-of-the-art computing facilities.
- Opportunities to perform individual and small-group project work with our world-leading researchers and research facilities.
- Core teaching covering all key areas of modern physics and astronomy.
- Optional courses drawn from the full range of disciplines in physics and astronomy, taught by leading experts.
- Dedicated tutorial teaching in small groups at all levels of the programme.
- The opportunity to spend a year studying abroad.
- A friendly and caring environment in which student development and welfare are a top priority.

Our research
We are home to world-leading research groups in many areas of physics and astronomy, including:
- The Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland, where the Higgs boson was discovered in 2012. Our groups study new physics on two HEP experiments, ATLAS and CMS.
- The Advanced LIGO collaboration, at whose two US facilities gravitational waves were discovered in 2015. Glasgow is a key member of the LIGO and other gravitational wave projects.
- Quantum, the UK’s centre of excellence in quantum-enhanced imaging, one of 4 quantum technology hubs, has the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance.

Diversity
Our School is committed to supporting equality and diversity in all forms. We are an Athena SWAN Silver Award holder, and the University is a Stonewall Scotland Diversity Champion.

Cover photo: In the dock of the LJD, providing views of the University of Glasgow. () Photo taken by David Farrow, University of Glasgow.