Membership and Open University degrees

The Institute of Physics welcomes applications for membership from Open University students who are studying physics-based degree programmes.

The requirements for each class of membership are:

- **Associate Member** - open to an Open University student who is studying any OU programme containing physics-related modules.

- **Member (MInstP)** - open to candidates who have already obtained an OU honours degree with the majority of courses in the physical sciences and/or engineering. The named degrees BSc Physical Science (B27), BSc Geosciences (B25), BSc Molecular Science (B26) and BSc Mathematics and Physics (Q77) all meet the requirements for Associate Membership as do the physics and astronomy pathways through the Natural Science degree (Q64).

- **Fellow (FInstP)** - open to those who meet the requirements for membership of the Institute, are working in a senior position and can demonstrate a significant contribution to their profession over a sustained period.

If you would like to join the Institute in any of the categories above the application form is available on our website.

Chartered Physicist

The title Chartered Physicist (CPhys) guarantees that a physicist’s competence in terms of education, experience and professional responsibility has been critically scrutinised and assessed to the satisfaction of the Institute’s Council. The educational requirement for CPhys is an IOP accredited integrated Masters degree. Students with an accredited Bachelor degree will need to show equivalence to integrated Masters level.

Current OU students wishing to progress to CPhys should ensure they obtain an honours degree that meets the requirements outlined in this document. Graduates that spread their study over more than one scheme or received transferred credit for modules listed as compulsory should apply to have their programme of study individually assessed.

Students or graduates seeking further advice on the suitability of OU degrees for membership or Chartered Physicist, or to have their degrees individually assessed, should contact accreditation@iop.org
IOP accredited degree - Scheme 1

Valid for graduation dates up to and including 31/12/2002

A degree containing physics from the Open University is accredited provided it is an honours degree and complies with the requirements detailed below.

Compulsory
MST207 Mathematical Methods, Models & Modelling (formerly MST204)

Options
Any five 30 point courses drawn from List 1 and 2, only two of which may be drawn from List 2.

List 1

S271  Discovering Physics
ST291  Images and Information
SMT356  Electromagnetism (or SM352)

One of the following:
S281  Astronomy and Planetary Science
S256  Matter in the Universe

One of the following:
SM355  Quantum Mechanics
SM351  Quantum Theory and Atomic Structure

One of the following:
S272  The Physics of Matter
T236  Introduction to Thermofluid Mechanics

List 2

S342  Physical Chemistry: Principles of Chemical Change
S357  Space, Time & Cosmology (or S354)
MST322  Mathematical Methods & Fluid Mechanics
T393  Electronic Materials and Devices
T331  Engineering Mechanics: Solids & Fluids
IOP accredited degree - Scheme 2
Valid for graduation dates from 31/12/1999 up to 31/12/2007

A degree containing physics from the Open University is accredited provided it is an honours degree and complies with the requirements detailed below.

The degree transcript must show:
- all the compulsory courses and 120 points from group 2
- at least one residential course
- at least 60 Level 1 points from science, mathematics or technology

The level 1 requirement may be replaced with level 2 or 3 courses if the course code begins with S, M or T.

**Group 1: Compulsory**
- S207 The Physical World*
- MST207 Mathematical Methods, Models & Modelling (or MST204)

* Students can meet this requirement by passing either:
- S271 Discovering Physics + S272 The Physics of Matter
- S271 Discovering Physics + ST291 Images and Information**

**Group 2: Options**
- S281 Astronomy & Planetary Science
- ST291 Images & Information**
- T236 Introduction to Thermofluid Mechanics
- S357 Space, Time & Cosmology (or S354)
- S381 The Energetic Universe
- SMT359 Electromagnetism (or SMT356)
- SM358 Quantum Mechanics (or SM355)
- MST322 Mathematical Methods & Fluid Mechanics
- T305 Digital Communications (or T322)
- T333 Heat Transfer: Principles & Applications
- T393 Electronic Materials & Devices

** ST291 may not be counted in both group 1 and group 2

**Group 3: Experimental work***
- SXR207 Physics by Experiment
- SMXR358 Quantum Mechanics: Experiments, Applications and Simulations
- SMXR359 Electromagnetism: Experiments, Applications and Simulations (or SMXR356)

*** This requirement can also be met by one of the following:
- S271 Discovering Physics
- S272 The Physics of Matter
- S207 The Physical World (in 2000)
IOP accredited degree - Scheme 3

Valid for graduation dates from 31/12/2004 up to 31/12/2013

A degree containing physics from the Open University is accredited provided it is an honours degree and complies with the requirements detailed below.

Current students that wish to obtain an accredited degree but will be affected by the withdrawal of level 2 and 3 residential courses should contact accreditation@iop.org for advice.

Compulsory
All of the following must be included:

- S207 The Physical World
- MST209 Mathematical Methods and Models *(or its predecessor MST207)*
- SM358 The Quantum World *(or its predecessor SM355)*
- SXP390 Science Project Course: Radiation and Matter

Options
At least one from the following must be included:

- SMT359 Electromagnetism *(or its predecessor SMT356)*
- S357 Space, Time and Cosmology

Experimental work
Successful attendance at two residential schools is required with at least one at level 3.

Compulsory
One or both of the following:

- SMXR358 Quantum Mechanics: Experiments, Applications and Simulations *(or SMXR355)* *
- SMXR359 Electromagnetism: Experiments, Applications and Simulations *(or SMXR356)*

*This requirement could be met by passing the previous course SM355 prior to 2002 providing the embedded residential school was successfully completed.

Options **
If only one school is taken from the compulsory section, one of the following must be included:

- SXR207 Physics by Experiment
- SXR208 Observing the Universe
- MSXR209 Mathematical Modelling

** This requirement could be met by S207 The Physical World taken in 2000 or MST207 Mathematical Methods, Models and Modelling provided the embedded residential school was successfully completed.
IOP accredited degree - Scheme 4

Valid for graduation dates from 31/12/2011 up to 31/12/2019

A degree containing physics from the Open University is accredited provided it is an honours degree and complies with the requirements detailed below.

**Compulsory:** All of the following must be included:

- S217 Physics: from classical to quantum
- MST210 Mathematical methods and models *
- S382 Astrophysics
- SM358 The quantum world
- SMT359 Electromagnetism

**Experimental work:** Experimental work must be included by completing option 1 or 2:

**Option 1:**
- SXPA288 Practical science: physics and astronomy

**Option 2:**
- Two from the following, one of which must be at level 2 or 3:
  - SXR103 Practising science
  - S155 Scientific investigations
  - TXR120 Engineering: an active introduction
  - SXR207 Physics by experiment
  - SXR208 Observing the Universe
  - MSXR209 Mathematical modelling
  - TXR220 Engineering in action
  - SMXR358 Quantum mechanics: experiments, applications and simulations
  - SMXR359 Electromagnetism: experiments, applications and simulations

**Project work:** At least one from the following must be included:

- SXP390 Science project course: radiation and matter
- SXG390 Science project course: geosciences
- SXN390 Science project course: science in society
- T450 The engineering project

**Notes**

All previous versions of the listed modules may be counted towards this scheme.

The experimental work requirements in option 2 can be met by embedded residential schools associated with older versions of the listed physics and mathematics modules and S103 Discovering science.

* The 30 credit module MST224 Mathematical methods will be accepted in place of MST210 for students that are unable to take 150 credits at level two.