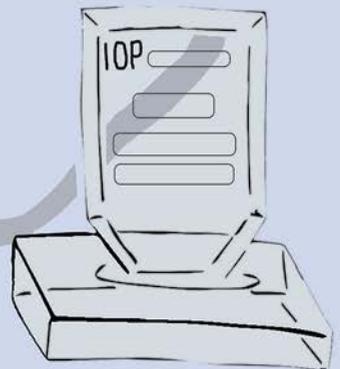




# From Student to Fellow

Supporting your career journey



The Institute of Physics is a leading scientific society. We are a charitable organisation with a worldwide membership of more than 50,000, working together to advance physics education, research and application. We engage with policymakers and the general public to develop awareness and understanding of the value of physics, and, through IOP Publishing, we are world leaders in professional scientific communications.

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# From student to fellow

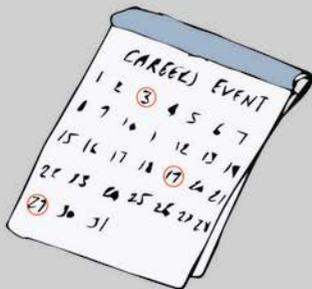
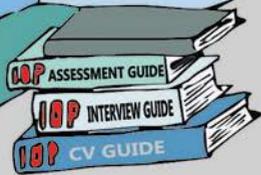
The Institute of Physics (IOP) prides itself on providing members with impartial continuous professional development (CPD) throughout your career from student to established professional.

Further information on the resources, activities and events mentioned in this booklet can be found on the Institute's website, [www.iop.org/careers](http://www.iop.org/careers) or [www.iop.org/cpd](http://www.iop.org/cpd).

## Your IOP pathway

- **Student member**  
For those enrolled on a full-time physics or related undergraduate course at university level.
- **Associate member (AMInstP)**  
For early-career physicists (typically new graduates) wanting to maintain their professional membership and aspiring to Member (MInstP) and Chartered Physicist (CPhys).
- **Member (MInstP)**  
Member is the main grade of professional membership, requiring a combination of education and professional experience in business, industry or academia.
- **Chartered status (CPhys/CEng)**  
For practicing physicists/engineers who have achieved the highest standards of professionalism, up-to-date expertise and the capacity to undertake independent practice and exercise leadership.
- **Fellow (FInstP)**  
Fellow is the senior grade of membership for those in all sectors who have made a significant contribution to the profession.

To find out more, please visit [www.iop.org/membership](http://www.iop.org/membership)



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# Students

As an undergraduate student, membership of the Institute is free. The Institute focuses on supporting and championing careers for students by providing a diverse range of tools and resources enabling you to find the right career path for you.

As part of this, we run two different kinds of careers event. In the first type, organisations who employ physicists host events with the intention of recruiting graduates. In the second, we invite physicists to talk about their careers and how they've made the transition from education into the working world. These events showcase the many opportunities that a physics degree provides.

We produce resources such as career profiles of physicists in particular industry sectors, and guides such as; writing CVs, getting through interviews or assessment days, and choosing a PhD. The Institute also supports university careers advisers in delivering support to students.

The Institute's University Student Network, which is run by student members, supports the activities of affiliated university physics and astronomy societies and encourages interaction between them. The Network organises events including the annual Conference for Astronomy and Physics Students – an entirely student-run occasion.

Student members are also encouraged to get involved in outreach activities to develop their all-essential transferable skills e.g. explaining physics to non-expert audiences and organising events. We run outreach workshops that are free to IOP members.

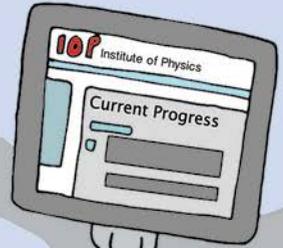
Your physics degree is just the beginning, so as you progress through your early career, upgrade your membership to Associate (AMInstP) to receive support in establishing yourself, making connections and developing your employability skills.



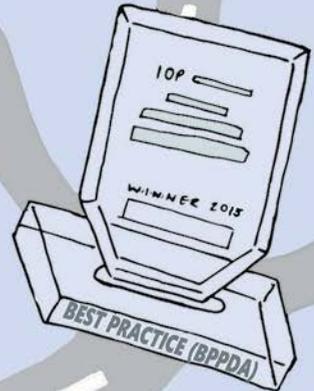
GET INVOLVED IN GROUPS/ BRANCHES



APPLY FOR CHARTERSHIP



MY CAREER PATH



GET A MENTOR



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# Early-career physicists

As you progress through the membership grades, it is essential to continue to actively seek out and plan development opportunities to further yourself and achieve professional recognition. To support you, we have a multitude of careers and CPD activities available, including online learning courses.

If you are a PhD student, a postdoctoral researcher or just getting started as a physicist in industry, one of the most beneficial things you can do for your career is to get a mentor. The Institute has an online mentoring resource that allows members to match themselves with potential mentors. There is also a workshop that explores the nature of mentoring, its benefits, and how to get the most from the mentoring relationship.

Early-career members could also consider working towards Chartered Physicist or Chartered Engineer status – a highly respected mark of professionalism and commitment that recognises those at the top of their field.

If you're unsure about the process of getting chartered, the Institute runs workshops on the benefits, the requirements, and how to compose a successful application.

The IOP's online career-planning tool MyCareerPath allows members to record their career goals, plan how to reach them, and reflect on progress – and is specifically designed to help members reach chartered status.

The Institute's Best Practice in Professional Development Awards recognises organisations that employ physicists who are committed to the continuing development of their staff.

If you haven't already done so, then Associate Members can apply to upgrade to full IOP membership, which entitles holders to use the postnominal letters MInstP, vote in Council elections, and wear the Institute's academic dress.



IOP  
CERTIFICATE  
OF  
FELLOWSHIP

IOP Advanced Tokamak Stability Theory

Nuclear Fusion

PROPERTY OF S.J Flinst

IOP  
Mentoring

IOP Institute of Physics  
MyCareerPath

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# Established professionals

As a Member (MInstP) or Fellow (FInstP) of the Institute, it is important to maintain focus on your CPD to retain your excellence and credibility, as well as enabling and developing others in the physics community, for example, by becoming a mentor.

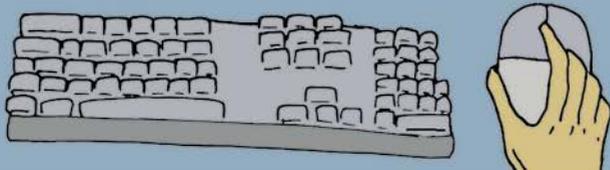
The Institute has a variety of free online learning courses developed exclusively for IOP members to help shore up your transferable skills such as project management or how to communicate complex ideas. We also have a scheme to formally endorse providers of training in 'soft' skills – a list of these providers is available on our website. Members at this career stage should continue to log this kind of professional development through MyCareerPath.

If you're looking for a new challenge or thinking of changing careers, we have advice and guidance for that too. There are several resources available through our website to help review your career options, as well as booklets on changing career or taking a career break. Most career changers will stay broadly within physics, but if you're planning to leave the subject behind entirely then our Once a Physicist series of profiles may also prove interesting.

Members at the top of their field should consider applying to be made a Fellow. The award of the Institute's Fellow status is recognition of a very high level of achievement in physics and an outstanding contribution to the profession. Fellows are entitled to use the designatory letters FInstP after their name, and have their own academic dress, distinct from that of ordinary members.



GROUP MEETING IN PROGRESS



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# Continuous Professional Development

We offer our members a full range of support to enable them to kick start their professional development and sustain momentum during the course of their careers.

- **Professional helpsheets**

A free resource to members helping you manage your own professional development

- **Online learning**

There are more than 40 soft-skill courses you can take any time and anywhere

- **MyCareerPath**

The unique online physics career planner tailored around you

- **Outreach workshops**

Boost your skills as a science communicator

- **Professional-development articles**

Articles on professional development that you might find useful

- **Mentoring**

Mentoring can be useful if you are thinking of developing your career, returning to work after a break, or if you want to develop new skills

To access the Institute's range of professional-development resources, visit **[www.iop.org/cpd](http://www.iop.org/cpd)**

To access more of the Institute's careers information and resources, visit **[www.iop.org/careers](http://www.iop.org/careers)** or contact **[members.careers@iop.org](mailto:members.careers@iop.org)**

### Contact information:

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Email [members.careers@iop.org](mailto:members.careers@iop.org)  
**[www.iop.org](http://www.iop.org)**



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The Kitemark is a symbol of certification by BSI and has been awarded to the Institute of Physics for exceptional practice in environmental management systems.

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