Physics

Graduate Outcomes 2020/21

Full-time UK domiciled first degree graduates - 15 months after Bath

The University of Bath has an excellent record of graduate employment, featuring in the top ten for graduate prospects in three major national league tables*. Across all subjects, 92% of Bath 2020/21 graduates who are employed in the UK are in high skilled employment, compared to 74% nationally#. Hundreds of employers of all sizes and from all industries each year advertise vacancies, deliver presentations or network with our students; we are in the top 15 universities targeted by employers†.

The information shown here is from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Graduate Outcomes survey for 2020/21 leavers. It is the biggest UK annual social survey and captures the perspectives and current status of recent graduates, 15 months after leaving university.

A Physics degree is a passport into a broad range of science, engineering, and technology careers. You will graduate with excellent problem-solving skills and the ability to think logically and critically about complex situations. You will also learn to work independently to tight deadlines and will develop skills to communicate complex scientific information. As a Physics graduate you can enter a wide variety of fields, including becoming a professional scientist in industry, government or academia, and your broad training means you can cross over into business and technological disciplines.

Courses included:

- Mathematics and Physics BSc/MSci
- Physics BSc/MPhys
- Physics with Astrophysics BSc/MPhys

Response rate	
Total in 2020/21 cohort	90[$]
% response rate	**80%**

[$]Number rounded to the nearest multiple of five

Graduate outcomes by activity

Activity summary	
Employment	66%
Voluntary/unpaid work	-
Employment and further study	7%
Further study	11%
Other: travel, caring, retired	7%
Unemployed[§]	9%
Total	**100%**

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Activity defined using HESA XACTIVITY: takes account of all activities and most important activity.

[§]Unemployed includes those due to start work or study.

*6th in the Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024, 4th in the Complete University Guide 2024, and 4th in the Guardian University Guide 2024

#Compared with all Universities UK members.

†The Graduate Market in 2024, High Fliers Research.

Industries and employers

Physics offers the flexibility to take your career in many different directions. You are not limited to roles within science, technology, and engineering.

In the UK, 70% of graduate vacancies do not ask for a specific degree; therefore, as a physicist, you will also find opportunities in fields unrelated to your degree, such as finance, business, consulting, and health.

The most frequent of the industry categories are:

- Information and communication
- Education
- Financial and insurance activities
- Professional, scientific, and technical activities
- Manufacturing

Examples of employers for the 2020/21 cohort:

- Acturis
- Aon
- Diamond Light Source
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Standard Chartered
- UK Atomic Energy Authority

Occupations and job titles

A Physics degree opens doors to some of the most exciting and cutting-edge jobs. The fourth industrial revolution and advances in technology have resulted in exciting careers for physicists ranging from working in health care to tackling climate change, gaming to robotics.

You will have the scope to pursue a highly specialist career using your degree or if you want to use the wide range of transferable skills to work in a general business role.

The vast majority of our UK employed Physics graduates are in high skilled employment (98%).

High skilled employment includes these three categories:

- Managers, directors and senior officials
- Professional occupations
- Associate professional and technical occupations

Examples of job titles for the 2020/21 cohort:

- Actuary
- Data Engineer Consultant
- Risk Consultant
- Software Developer
- Technical Business Analyst
- Trader

Further study

Some physics graduates go on to further study at postgraduate level to enhance their knowledge of a particular area of physics such as astrophysics, quantum physics, nanotechnology, and mathematical physics especially if they wish to pursue a research career in industry or in academia.

Some graduates pursue vocational qualifications such as a PGCE to train as teachers.

Examples of institutions for the 2020/21 cohort:

- University of Bath
- University of Cambridge
- University of Southampton
- University of Durham

More information

Find out what Bath graduates from other courses do: go.bath.ac.uk/graduate-outcomes.

More information is available about how Careers supports current and prospective students, as well as graduates from Bath: bath.ac.uk/careers.

Source: HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey for 2020/21 leavers relating to full-time UK domiciled first-degree University of Bath graduates, 15 months after leaving university.