**Programme Specification**

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| **Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the programme. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this specification is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. |

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| **MPhys Physics with a Year Abroad****MPhys Physics with Astrophysics with a Year Abroad****MPhys Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics with a Year Abroad** |

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| 1. **Awarding Institution/Body**
 | University of Kent |
| 1. **Teaching Institution**
 | University of Kent |
| 1. **School responsible for management of the programme**
 | School of Physical Sciences |
| 1. **Teaching Site**
 | Canterbury  |
| 1. **Mode of Delivery**
 | Full-time |
| 1. **Programme accredited by**
 | The Institute of Physics |
| 1. **a) Final Award**
 | MPhys PhysicsMPhys Physics with AstrophysicsMPhys Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics |
| 7. **b) Alternative Exit Awards**  | BSc (non hons) Physics; BSc (non hons) Physics with Astrophysics; BSc (non hons) Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics;Diploma in Physics; Diploma in Physics with Astrophysics; Diploma in Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics; Certificate in Physics;Certificate in Physics with Astrophysics;Certificate in Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics |
| 1. **Programme**
 | Physics |
| 1. **UCAS Code (or other code)**
 | F304 Physics with a Year AbroadF3FM Physics with Astrophysics with a Year Abroad F591 Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics with a Year Abroad |
| 1. **Credits/ECTS Value**
 | 480 (ECTS 240) |
| 1. **Study Level**
 | Undergraduate |
| 1. **Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)**
 | Physics, Astronomy and Astrophysics (2016) |
| 1. **Date of creation/revision**
 | Jun 2012/revised FSO Dec 2017  |
| 1. **Intended Start Date of Delivery of this Programme**
 | September 2018 |

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| 1. **Educational Aims of the Programme**

The programme aims to: |
| * To provide the opportunity for students to gain all the learning outcomes associated with relevant ‘parent’ degree programme from which these “*with a year abroad”* variants are derived (see the appropriate ‘parent’ programme specification for details) and in addition.
* To provide the opportunity for suitably motivated students to broaden their experience through study in a foreign country, specifically (but not limited to) the USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Switzerland and Turkey.
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| **16 Programme Outcomes**The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.The programme outcomes have references to the subject benchmarking statement for Physics, Astronomy and Astrophysics (2016).The MPhys is a 4 year period of broadly based but integrated study; overall, it is targeted towards those students wishing to enter careers as professional research physicists in industrial, university or other settings. *(****SB 3.1****)* |

**A. Knowledge and Understanding of:**

1-3. As per relevant “parent” programme.

**Skills and Other Attributes**

**B. Intellectual Skills:**

1-10. As per relevant “parent” programme.

**C. Subject-specific Skills:**

1-10. As per relevant “parent” programme.

**D. Transferable Skills:**

1-5. As per relevant “parent” programme, plus

6. The ability to study within a different educational system and to live in a foreign country.

**Teaching/learning and assessment methods and strategies used to enable the programme learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated.**

**Learning & Teaching**

* Broadly as per relevant “parent” programme, although teaching and learning methods may differ from these during the year you spend studying abroad.

**Assessment:**

* Broadly as per relevant “parent” programme, although assessment methods may differ from these during the year you spend studying abroad.

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| For more information on the skills developed by individual modules and on the specific learning outcomes associated with any Certificate, Diploma or BA/BSc non-honours awards relating to this programme of study, see the module mapping table, located at the end of this specification. |

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| **17 Programme Structures and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards**The MPhys programmes are studied over four years full-time.The programme is divided into four stages, each stage comprising modules to a total of 120 credits. Students must successfully complete each module in order to be awarded the specified number of credits for that module. One credit corresponds to approximately ten hours of 'learning time' (including all classes and all private study and research). Thus obtaining 120 credits in an academic year requires 1,200 hours of overall learning time. For further information on modules and credits, refer to the Credit Framework at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfo.html>.Each module and programme is designed to be at a specific level. For the descriptors of each of these levels, refer to Annex 2 of the Credit Framework at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfoannex2.html>. To be eligible for the award of an honours degree students must obtain 360 credits, at least 210 of which must be at Level 5 or above, including at least 90 credits at level 6 or above at Stage 3.Students successfully completing Stage 1 of the programme and meeting credit framework requirements who do not successfully complete Stage 2 will be eligible for the award of the Certificate in Physics/Physics with Astrophysics/Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics. Students successfully completing Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the programme and meeting Credit Framework requirements who do not successfully complete Stage 3 will be eligible for the award of the Diploma in Physics/Physics with Astrophysics/Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics. Students successfully completing Stage 2 of the programme and achieving 300 credits overall including at least 60 credits at level 6 or above in Stage 3 and meeting Credit Framework requirements will be eligible for the award of a BSc non-honours degree.Students successfully completing Stage 2 and also the year abroad and meeting credit framework requirements will be eligible for the award of the Diploma with a Year Abroad.For further information, refer to the Credit Framework at <https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfo.html#exit-awards>.Compulsory modules are core to the programme and must be taken by all students studying the programme. Optional modules provide a choice of subject areas, from which students will select a stated number of modules.Where a student fails a module(s) due to illness or other mitigating circumstances, such failure may be condoned, subject to the requirements of the Credit Framework and provided that the student has achieved the **programme** learning outcomes. For further information, refer to the Credit Framework at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfo.html>.Where a student fails a module(s), but has marks for such modules within 10 percentage points of the pass mark, the Board of Examiners may nevertheless award the credits for the module(s), subject to the requirements of the Credit Framework and provided that the student has achieved the **programme** learning outcomes. For further information, refer to the Credit Framework.Because of the intellectually progressive nature of this degree programme, each year's study builds on the previous year, and requires successful completion of all of the previous year's study as a pre-requisite. For this reason, Boards of Examiners will NOT permit the trailing of any modules except at their discretion in exceptional circumstances. |

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| **KV Code** | **Code** | **Title** | **Level** | **Credits** | **Term(s)** |
| **Stage 1** |
| **Compulsory Modules** *(See “parent” programme for all details)* |
| **Stage 2** |
| **Compulsory Modules** *(see “parent” programme for all details)* |
| **Stage A** |
| **Compulsory Modules – 120 credits** |
| PHYS7900 | PH790(NC) | MPhys Year Abroad Placement | 6 | 120 | 1,2 & 3 |
|  **Stage 4** |
| **Compulsory Modules** *(see “parent” programme for all details)* |

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| **18 Work-Based Learning** |
| Disability Statement: Where disabled students are due to undertake a work placement as part of this programme of study, a representative of the University will meet with the work placement provider in advance to ensure the provision of anticipatory and reasonable adjustments in line with legal requirements. |
| Where relevant to the programme of study, provide details of any work-based learning element, inclusive of employer details, delivery, assessment and support for students. |
| * The year abroad is constituted in module PH790 Year Abroad whose credit value is 120 credits.
* Students apply for placements through the central university Go Abroad group in the International Development Office.
* The year abroad is overseen both by the central Go Abroad team and by an SPS member of staff (typically the PH790 module convener).
* If for any reason the year abroad cannot be undertaken, the student can transfer to another programme.
* Assessment is mainly based on academic transcript from host university and graded in Kent on a pass/fail basis. Full details are in the PH790 module specification.
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| **19 Support for Students and their Learning** |
| * School and University induction programme
* Programme/module handbooks
* Library services [http://www.kent.ac.uk/library](http://www.kent.ac.uk/library/)
* Student Support [http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport](http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/)
* Student Wellbeing [www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing](http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/)
* Centre for English and World Languages <http://www.kent.ac.uk/cewl/index.html>
* Student Learning Advisory Service <http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/about/slas.html>
* PASS system <https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexg.html>
* Academic Adviser system <https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/advisers/index.html>
* Kent Union [www.kentunion.co.uk](http://www.kentunion.co.uk/)
* Careers and Employability Services [www.kent.ac.uk/ces](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ces/)
* Counselling Service [https://www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/counselling](https://www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/counselling/)
* Information Services (computing and library services) [www.kent.ac.uk/is](http://www.kent.ac.uk/is/)
* Undergraduate student representation at School, Faculty and Institutional levels
* International Recruitment Office [https://www.kent.ac.uk/internationalstudent](https://www.kent.ac.uk/internationalstudent/); International Partnerships Office [https://www.kent.ac.uk/global/partnerships](https://www.kent.ac.uk/global/partnerships/)
* Medical Centre <https://www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/medicalcentre.html>
* SPS student study room with networked PCs and a selection of textbooks
* Well-equipped laboratories with technician support
* SPS website with learning support materials
* Student Data System enabling monitoring of progress via coursework marks
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| **20 Entry Profile**The minimum age to study a degree programme at the university is normally at least 17 years old by 20 September in the year the programme begins. There is no upper age limit. |
| 20.1 **Entry Route**For current information, please refer to the University prospectus. |
| Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions requirements of the University and the subject-specific requirements defined by the School of Physical Sciences. General minimum requirements are that you must be at least 17 years old on admission (- there is no upper age limit to study) and have five GCSE passes, including English or Use of English, and at least Physics and Mathematics at A-level. The usual offer level for MPhys is ‘ABB’.IELTs requirements for international applicants: Average 6.5 in IELTs test, minimum 6.0 in reading and writing.For further information, please refer to the online prospectus, and in particular regarding entry via Curriculum 2000, Access/Foundation programmes, BTEC, International Baccalaureate, Irish Leaving Certificate, university degree, Scottish qualifications and VCE A level (AGNVQ). Please also consult the prospectus for additional information for mature applicants and for international applicants, and for details regarding the accreditation of prior learning. |
| 20.2 **What does this programme have to offer?** |
| * A thorough training in a stimulating learning environment, to become equipped as graduates to collaborate and compete successfully with your colleagues throughout your subsequent careers.
* A structured opportunity to gain the numeracy, theoretical and practical problem-solving and communication skills so highly regarded by employers.
* A broad training in Physics which is good preparation for a wide range of careers in manufacturing and service industries, education, the media and the financial sector.
* The MPhys programme enhances core Physics knowledge and skills with the further, in-depth training needed for a physics-based career, including practical aspects of the research process.
* The opportunity to live and study in a distinct cultural, educational and social environment.
* Exceptionally high rates of graduate employment.
* A pleasant and friendly campus with high student morale and a dedicated, professional teaching staff.
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| 20.3 **Personal Profile** |
| * A fascination with, and a desire to understand, the 'how and why' of the material world around us and be highly motivated towards pursuing this goal within a broadened cultural setting.
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| 21 **Methods for Evaluating and Enhancing the Quality and Standards of Teaching and Learning** |
| 21.1 **Mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning, assessment, the curriculum and outcome standards** |
| * Student module evaluations
* Annual programme and module monitoring reports <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexe.html>
* External Examiners system <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexk.html>
* Periodic programme review <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexf.html>
* Annual staff appraisal
* Peer observation
* Quality Assurance Framework <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html>
* QAA Higher Education Review <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/InstitutionReports/types-of-review/higher-education-review/Pages/default.aspx>
* Continuous monitoring of student progress and attendance
* Personal Academic Support System (PASS): the extensive use of attendance and other measures of diligence within a defined system of personal tutors and administrative support, and via the office of a Senior Tutor
* Double marking and/or moderation of all examination and some other assessed work at Stage 2 and above
* External examiners’ reports (and the experience gained by our SPS staff acting as external examiners elsewhere)
* Active staff development programme
* Mentoring/PGCHE training programme for new lecturers
* University regulations for undergraduate certificates, diplomas and degrees; University examination conventions; Student Charter; Students’ Union Code of Practice
* External accreditation by Institute of Physics
 |
| 21.2 **Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards** |
| * Staff-Student Liaison Committee
* Physics Teaching (including module teachers’ review meetings)
* School Education Committee
* Faculty Education Committee
* Faculty Board
* Education Board
* Board of Examiners
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| 21.3 **Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of teaching and their learning experience** |
| * Student module evaluations
* Staff-Student Liaison Committee
* Student rep system (School, Faculty and Institutional level)
* Annual NSS
* Discussions with academic adviser and/or members of the School’s teaching and support staff
* You will be in contact with at least one designated member of the University of Kent School staff throughout your period abroad who will seek your feedback on your year abroad
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| 21.4 **Staff Development priorities include:** |
| * PGCHE requirements
* HEA (associate) fellowship membership
* Annual appraisals
* Institutional Level Staff Development Programme
* Academic Practice Provision (PGCHE, other development opportunities)
* Professional body membership and requirements
* Programme team meetings
* Research seminars
* Conferences
* Study leave
* Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) awareness
* Mentoring of new members of the teaching staff
* Module team meetings
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| 22 **Indicators of Quality and Standards** |
| * Results of periodic programme review (2016)
* Professional accreditation by the Institute of Physics (2017)
* QAA Higher Education Review 2015
* Annual External Examiner reports
* Annual programme and module monitoring reports
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| 22.1 **The following reference points were used in creating these specifications:** |
| * QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality>
* QAA Benchmarking statements for Physics, Astronomy and Astrophysics (2016)
* Accreditation requirements of Institute of Physics
* School and Faculty plan
* University Plan [https://www.kent.ac.uk/about/plan](https://www.kent.ac.uk/about/plan/) and Learning and Teaching Strategies <https://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/strategies/lta.html>
* Staff research activities
* Kent Inclusive Practices (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/accessibility/inclusive-practice.html>)
* A range of IoP publications and reports (see <http://www.iop.org>)
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| 23 **Inclusive Programme Design**  |
| The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the programme is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services. |

*Module mapping table to be amended as appropriate to the programme specification. Where the programme includes many optional modules, it is acceptable to include only the compulsory modules in the table.*

**Programme Title: MPhys Physics/Physics with Astrophysics/Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics with a Year Abroad**

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|  | **A1** | **A2S** | **A3****M** | **B1** | **B2** | **B3** | **B4** | **B5S** | **B6****M** | **B7****M** | **B8****M** | **B9****M** | **B10****M****S** | **C1** | **C2** | **C3** | **C4** | **C5** | **C6** | **C7****M** | **C8****M** | **C9****M** | **C10****M** | **D1** | **D2** | **D3** | **D4** | **D5** | **D6** |
| **PH790** | **1****2****X** | **1****2****X****4** | **4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **4** | **4** | **4** | **4** | **4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **4** | **4** | **4** | **4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **1****2****X****4** | **X** |

Notes: X denotes desired outcomes of PH790; 1/2/4 denotes outcome of modules in MPhys Stages 1/2/4 respectively. For detailed mapping please see the relevant parent programme specification.