

BSc (Hons)

Physical Sciences (4 year route including a Foundation Year at Carmel College)

UCAS code F308

Entry requirements	Study mode	Duration	Apply by: 14 January 2026
A level: CDD	Full-time	4 years	Starts on: 28 September 2026

About this course

Studying this programme provides a route into any of the BSc (Hons) degree programmes offered by the Department of Physics.

Introduction

This programme provides a route into any of the BSc (Hons) degree programmes offered by the Department of Physics. You will undertake a foundation year at [Carmel College, St Helens](#), where the class sizes are small and the standards of academic achievement high.

At Carmel College, you will take three foundation modules chosen from Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology or Geography, depending on which degree route you want to follow. In your second year, you will attend the University of Liverpool and take the same modules as other students on your chosen programme.

Find information about what essential and optional modules you will need to take during your Year Zero at Carmel College to progress to your chosen University of Liverpool degree programme in our [guide to progression routes](#).

What you'll learn

- Skills needed for independent study at undergraduate degree level

- Undertaking a variety of learning methods and assessment tasks
 - Fundamental principles that underpin modern physics
 - Latest advances in cutting-edge physics research
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Routes

- [Physics](#) BSc (Hons)
- [Physics and Mathematics](#) BSc (Hons)
- [Physics with Astronomy](#) BSc (Hons)
- [Physics with Medical Applications](#) BSc (Hons)
- [Physics with Nuclear Science](#) BSc (Hons)

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year zero

Students follow three foundation modules chosen from Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology or Geography. Module choice depends on the programme students wish to follow after the foundation year.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Our research-led teaching ensures you are taught the latest advances in cutting-edge physics research. Lectures introduce and provide the details of the various areas of physics and related subjects. You will be working in tutorials and problem-solving workshops, which are another crucial element in the learning process, where you put your knowledge into practice. They help you to develop a working knowledge and understanding of physics. All of the lecturers also perform world class research and use this to enhance their teaching.

Most work takes place in small groups with a tutor or in a larger class where staff provide help as needed. Practical work is an integral part of the programmes, and ranges from training in basic laboratory skills in the first two years to a research project in the third or fourth year. You will undertake an extended project on a research topic with a member of staff who will mentor you. By the end of the degree you will be well prepared to tackle problems in any area and present yourself and your work both in writing and in person. In the first two years students take maths modules which provide the support all students need to understand the physics topics.

How you're assessed

Assessment is mainly by examination and coursework. Depending on the modules taken you may encounter project work, presentations (individual or

group), and specific tests or tasks focused on solidifying learning outcomes.

Students are expected to score an overall mark of 50% to progress to the second year of the course. In year two, students will start the first year of their selected degree programme at the University of Liverpool.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

A physical sciences degree is a great starting point for a physics-related career, engineering and computing careers.

Physicists are trained to solve a wide range of problems. That is why graduates have gone on to explore careers in such diverse areas such as:

- telecommunications
- microelectronics
- nuclear power and instrumentation
- cryogenics
- astronomy
- geophysics
- medical physics
- materials science
- computing
- teaching
- business, finance and management.

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, how to pay, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £9,790

Foundation year fee – £9,535

Year abroad fee – £1,385 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Year abroad fee – £16,000 (applies to year in China)

The UK and international full-time fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27 (UK fees are subject to Parliamentary approval). UK year abroad and year in industry fees and international year in industry fees shown are for entry 2025, as 2026/27 fees have yet to be confirmed. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching, assessment, operating University facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

Additional costs

You cannot apply for the foundation programme if you require a visa to study in the UK. However, some UK-based international students may be eligible to apply. If you are eligible to apply, your fee status assessment will determine if you pay home or international fees.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

A levels

CDD

A typical offer is likely to be CDD at A level, in related subjects. Students with alternative A level combinations are welcome to apply but should expect to be made higher offers.

T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject and specialism.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

GCSE

All applicants must have a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C/4 or above, including English Language, Mathematics and two Sciences. Core and Additional Science/Dual Science acceptable as the two Sciences. Alternatively, if separate sciences are being studied then one of these must be GCSE Physics. Applicants over 21 can be considered on GCSEs alone.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our direct entry requirements. Although there is no direct Foundation Certificate route to this course, completing a Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), can guarantee you a place on a number of similar courses which may interest you.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

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