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UNSW Science

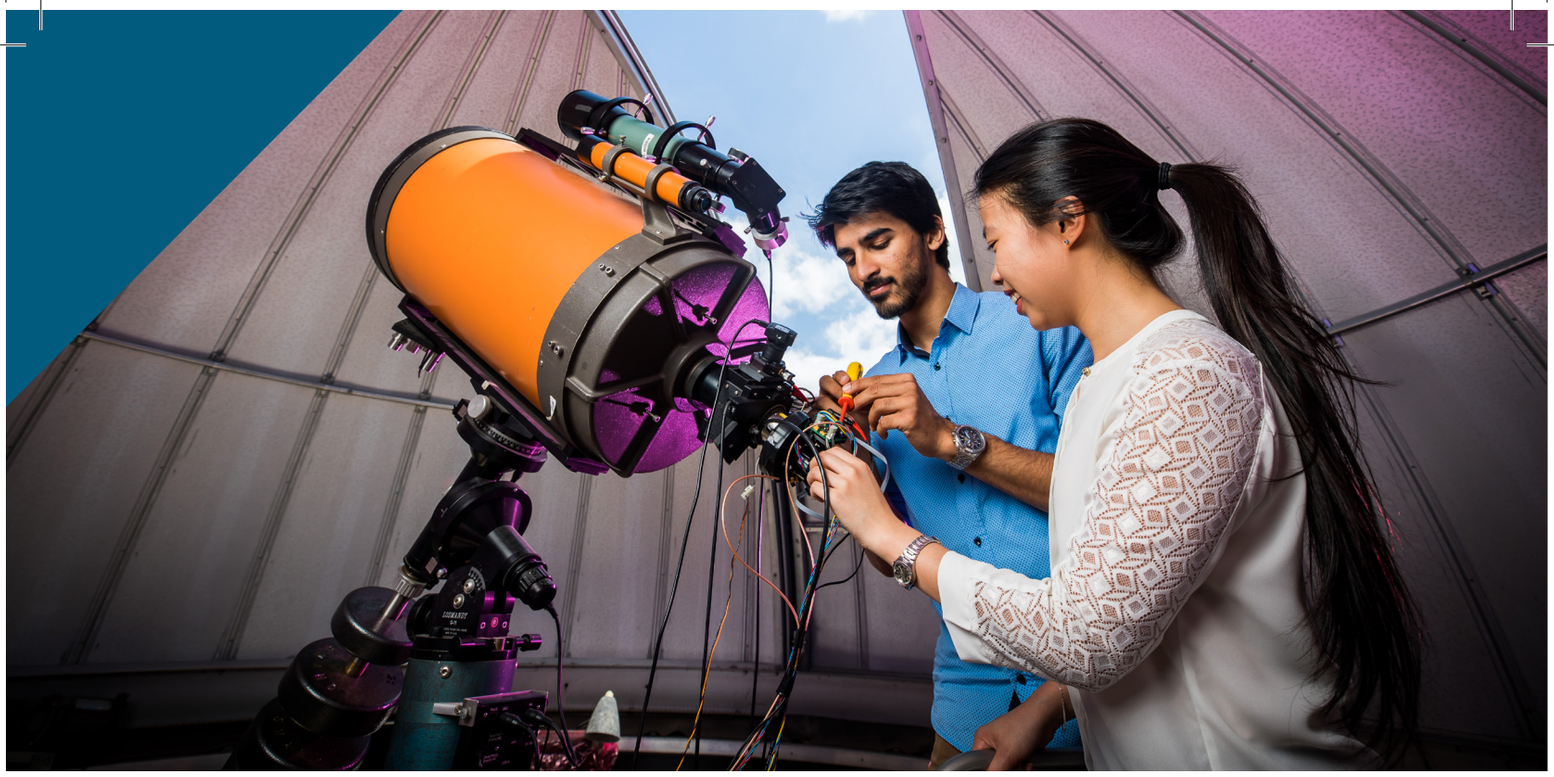
Careers in physics

Graduate physicists command an enviable range of skills sought by employers. Physicists are great at solving problems, particularly tricky ones that are technically complex or quantitative. Students who study physics also develop a wide variety of other skills including communication, teamwork, and computational skills.

A physics degree is the first step to becoming a research scientist and working in public or industrial research facilities throughout the world. However, a physics degree can also be used as a general qualification. Graduates find work in the IT and computing industries, the financial sector, government and policy-making, scientific sales and marketing and science communication and public relations. They also work as teachers.

Double degrees are popular and many students choose to combine a Science degree majoring in Physics with a degree in Engineering, Computer Science, Law, Actuarial Studies, Commerce, Economics, Education, Music, Fine Arts or Arts. Many graduates from a double degree will choose to work in the area of their professional qualification, while utilising the specialist knowledge from their Physics degree, for example, a Physics and Law graduate may work in patent law. Students graduating with double degrees are highly employable.

There is a high demand for physics graduates, and they are employed in growth industries such as scientific and technical services, teaching, health care, and public administration. Internationally, 75 percent of the fastest growing occupations now require STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills and knowledge. A physics degree provides flexibility for adapting to change.



Here are some of the careers followed by recent graduates from the School of Physics at UNSW. Some of these, such as postdoctoral researcher, medical physicist and teacher, may require further study after completing a Bachelor of Science.

- Postdoctoral University Researcher
- Medical Physicist
- Astronomer
- Alternative Energy Consultant
- Scientific Policy Officer
- High School Science Teacher
- Financial Analyst
- Photonics Research Scientist
- Scientific Sales
- Nuclear Scientist
- Media Broadcaster
- Semiconductor Device Engineer
- Computer Game Designer
- Radiation Protection Officer
- Museum Education Officer
- Research Physicist
- Science Writer
- Patent Examiner
- Meteorologist
- Biophysicist
- Computer Programmer
- University Lecturer
- Solar Energy Researcher
- Nanotechnologist
- Data Analyst
- Project Manager

For more information, go to:
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