

# PHD STUDIES in Physics and Astronomy

The Department of Physics & Astronomy has seen our applicant pool grow each year, which makes admission decisions no easy task. We are guided by our holistic application review process to select the best from a stellar group of young scientists.

This application guide answers some of the most common questions we receive and includes an application fee waiver code. Please read the guide, review our website for specific instructions and register to attend an info session or workshop.

## APPLICATION AT A GLANCE

Application materials needed by January 15, 2022:

- 3-5 letters of recommendation
- English language assessment\*
- Optional research abstract (up to 500 words)
- Unofficial transcripts from all post-secondary institutions
- Personal statement (up to 1,000 words, full details on our site)
- Completed Apply Yourself application
- 1 table of relevant coursework
- CV/resumé
- All materials must be received no later than January 15, 2022.

Do NOT include:

- GRE scores (general or subject)
- Pictures
- Research papers in place of personal statements

All applications are evaluated for: **program specific preparation, academic performance, research potential, persistence and determination, long term goals, scholarly engagement, leadership/community involvement, and communication skills.** It's important to convey how this program will aid in achieving your long term goals so please be sure to mention specific research groups or researchers in the department.

The program of study does not include refresher courses, therefore, students without undergraduate quantum mechanics and electrodynamics courses (and the related foundational material such as calculus and differential equations) are rarely considered for admission. The department does not fund course work for students who have not been admitted to the program nor can it fund undergraduate coursework for admitted graduate students.

Some applicants take physics and math courses as non-degree seeking students so they can improve their competitive advantage. A great way to consider what kind of academic preparation is expected is to review the advanced physics and core math courses required for our undergraduate physics degree (see *resources*).

Students who graduate from P&A's PhD path will receive a PhD in Physics, regardless of the research subfield. The department only admits students for entry to the fall semester. Courses listed in the Program of Study are rarely waived. Up to 6 credits of graduate level course work may be transferrable. A transfer evaluation typically only takes place after admission to the graduate program.

Admission to the Master's program is rare and requires special permission. Contact [admissions@physics.utah.edu](mailto:admissions@physics.utah.edu) for more info.

## SUPPORT AT A GLANCE

Applicants admitted to the PhD program will receive an offer letter with their position and funding. All students admitted to the PhD program receive a part-time position as a Teaching Assistant. PhD-seeking students employed by the department qualify for the tuition benefit program, operated by the Graduate School. Through this program, 100% of required courses are paid on the student's behalf and 100% of the health insurance premium is covered. In addition, the department covers differential tuition, lab fees for required courses, and other mandatory student fees.

### Financial Support Provided to Admitted Grads:

- Tuition, up to 12-credits ~\$12,500/ fall & spring
- Annual health insurance coverage ~\$2,500
- Moving allowance of \$600 for non-local students
- Temporary, complimentary lodging for early arrival
- Annual stipend of \$26,512 for part time work during fall, spring, and summer
- Mandatory fees ~\$300
- Summer arrival stipend of up to \$1,500
- Conference travel grants ~\$1,000

Depending on funding of specific research groups, students may become Research Assistants by the second year. The availability of RAships depends on the subfield of interest. It's important to investigate how your subfield is supported and talk to research groups. Some students will not receive an RAship because of the limited grants offered by relevant institutions. RAs and TAs receive the same departmental support throughout their time in the program.



APPLICATION FEE  
WAIVER CODE  
**JUPANDA**

GOOD ONLY FOR  
COMPLETE PHD APPS

## RESOURCES

Click a hyperlink below or search directly at [www.utah.edu](http://www.utah.edu)

[P&A application instructions](#)

[P&A Researchers](#)

[Graduate Handbook](#)

[International applicants](#)

[English language proficiency](#)

[The Graduate School](#)

[Contact current graduate students](#)

[Our undergraduate curriculum](#)

[Grad School Shopper](#)

*If, after reviewing the website and graduate program handbook, you still have questions, please email [admissions@physics.utah.edu](mailto:admissions@physics.utah.edu) or attend a November info session.*

At the bottom of the Additional Information application section, there is a Graduate Referral Code subsection. The fee waiver code should be entered there. We are not able to reimburse the cost of an application fee that has already been paid.

Our admission review process is holistic – meaning that each application is evaluated based on all the information provided by the student and the recommendation letters.

- Your CV/resume can be included with your statement of purpose, which will allow you to upload all the pages as to the submission form. If you did not include a required portion of the application, please submit it using the post-submission portal. You will not be able to see documents added to the post-submission portal but we will see them.
- The statement of purpose has a flexible format. If you answer the questions and stay under the word count, you'll have met the requirements.
- If you can only submit unofficial English Proficiency scores by January 15th, we will be able to review your application, but late scores can hinder or prevent our ability to offer admission to an otherwise qualified candidate. **All English proficiency requirements are clearly stated here:** <https://admissions.utah.edu/english-proficiency/>.
- All materials, including letters, must be submitted no later than January 15th. System processing or time zone delays will not be excepted.
- We do not admit students to the MS degree track unless they have made prior arrangements with a potential research advisor. Our program only offers financial support to those admitted to the PhD track. No separate application is required for PhD funding.

**NOVEMBER 2021  
INFO SESSIONS  
3rd | Program Overview  
10th | Application Workshop  
REGISTER TODAY**

<https://forms.gle/L499dR6pNTzmjXE37>





# FALL 2022 PHD APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Department of Physics and Astronomy at University of Utah

- Completed ApplyYourself application
- Unofficial transcripts from accredited institutions
- 3 - 5 letters of recommendation
- All 3 parts of the personal statement
- English language proficiency score (Int'l only)
- CV/ Résumé
- Submit no later than January 15, 2022

**Late or incomplete applications are not considered.  
A complete application packet includes the items  
listed above. For questions, contact  
[admissions@physics.utah.edu](mailto:admissions@physics.utah.edu)**

*Apply for free using code: UUPANDA*