

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 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, 2023:

- 3-5 letters of recommendation
- English language assessment*
- Unofficial transcripts from all post-secondary institutions
- Personal statement (up to 500 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, 2023.

Do NOT include:

- GRE scores (general or subject)
- Pictures
- Research papers or abstracts 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 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
- Conference travel grants ~\$1,000
- Annual stipend of \$30,000 for work during fall, spring, and summer
- Mandatory fees ~\$300
- Summer arrival stipend of up to \$2,100

This funding is intended to be made available for the duration of enrollment in the Ph.D. program, assuming good-standing.

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.



RESOURCES

Click a hyperlink below or search directly at 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](#)

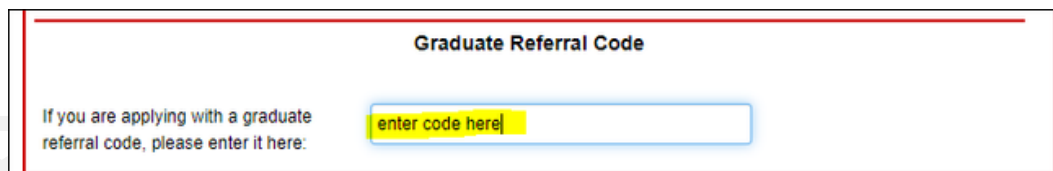
[Grad School Shopper](#)

**NOVEMBER 2022
INFO SESSIONS
3rd | Program Overview
10th | Application Workshop
REGISTER TODAY**

<https://forms.gle/xRZFApntCZSbgY587>

How to use the application fee waiver code:

At the bottom of the Additional Information application section, there is a Graduate Referral Code subsection. The code should be entered there (see screenshot below).



The screenshot shows a form section titled "Graduate Referral Code". Below the title, there is a text prompt: "If you are applying with a graduate referral code, please enter it here:". To the right of this prompt is a text input field with a yellow highlight and the placeholder text "enter code here".

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

