

PHD STUDIES in Physics and Astronomy

The Department of Physics & Astronomy is a competitive program that provides excellent training to aspiring physics and astronomy researchers. Each year, we use a holistic application review process to build a cohort of students who are most likely to be successful in our program.

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

Request a
fee waiver
code here.



APPLICATION AT A GLANCE

- 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 Slate application
- 1 table of relevant coursework
- CV/resumé

Applications are due December 15th

Do NOT include:

- Pictures
- Research papers or abstracts in place of personal statements

All applications are evaluated for: academic performance, research potential, motivation, engagement outside of coursework, and communication skills. We remind you to please be specific about your goals and interests, including faculty with whom you'd like to work.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- The PhD program does not include remedial courses, therefore, students without undergraduate quantum mechanics and electrodynamics courses (and the related foundational material such as calculus and differential equations) will not be considered for admission. One way to assess your academic preparation for our PhD program is to review the advanced physics and core math courses required for our undergraduate physics degree (see resources).
- The department does not fund course work for students who have not been admitted to the program nor can it fund undergraduate coursework for PhD students.
- Students who graduate from the PhD path will receive a PhD in Physics, regardless of the research subfield.
- The department only admits students for entry to the fall semester. Core course 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 specifying 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 tuition (up to 12 credits) is paid on the student's behalf and 100% of the health insurance premium is covered. In addition, the department covers lab fees for required courses and other mandatory student fees.

Financial Support Provided to Admitted Grads:

- Tuition, up to 12-credits per semester
- Annual health insurance premium
- All fees
- Annual stipend of \$34,000 for work during fall, spring, and summer
- Relocation allowance

Students in good standing in the PhD program can expect to be supported throughout their degree program. This advertisement does not constitute a financial commitment.

Students may be supported as Research Assistants (RAs) by the second year. The availability of RAships varies by subfield. We recommend that you discuss research and funding opportunities with research groups you may want to join. 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](#)