

Programme Title: BSc Physics with Foundation



## Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	BSc Physics with Foundation
Name of interim award(s):	Foundation Certificate (FdCert) - as Exit Award only
Duration of study / period of registration:	4 years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	FFX0, USEF-QM4PHY1, USPHY
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 3
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Physical and Chemical Sciences

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

School of Biological & Behavioral Sciences

School of Languages, Linguistics & Film

School of Engineering & Materials Science

School of Mathematical Sciences

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

### Programme outline

The BSc Physics with Foundation provides an alternative route onto a Physics undergraduate degree, combining a foundation year with a traditional university degree in an integrated four year programme (1+3 years). QMUL offers tailored pathways for subjects across science and engineering.

BSc Physics with Foundation is open to UK and EU/International students. Our sessions are taught entirely at the Mile End campus by university staff. In-line with Queen Mary's 2030 Strategy, high quality learning resources and interactive sessions with academic staff will be available online. As a foundation student, you have access to all QMUL's facilities and will be a fulltime student of the university. Both UK and EU/International students should apply directly through UCAS.

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**Highlights:**

- Opportunity to apply to physics undergraduate degrees after completing the Foundation year at the appropriate level
- Study at campus-based university within easy reach of all of London's attractions
- Eligible for funding through Student Loans Company (UK/EU students only)
- Full access to all student facilities (academic, welfare, IT, library, social and sport)
- Experienced and well-qualified teaching staff, many of whom teach on undergraduate and postgraduate programmes

**Aims of the programme**

The initial year of the integrated BSc Physics with Foundation will equip you with the skills and knowledge to undertake an undergraduate degree in physical sciences. Successful completion of this programme at the appropriate level guarantees you a place on one of the following physics degrees at QMUL, without having to re-apply through UCAS:

Physics BSc

Astrophysics BSc

Physics with Data Science BSc

**What will you be expected to achieve?**

- Pass 105 credits including SEF030 Communication in Science and Technology, SEF044 Foundations of Physical Science and SEF041 Mathematics B.
- Achieve an overall mean average of 50% across all modules.
- Achieve at least 60% in SEF044 Foundations of Physical Science and 50% in SEF041 Mathematics B.

For entry onto particular programmes there may be additional requirements. Please check the handbook or contact [fedu@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:fedu@qmul.ac.uk) for more information.

**Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19**

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

**Academic Content:**

A 1	Foundation of Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science
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A2	Experience the deep relationship existing between all STEM subject
A3	Laboratory techniques and instruments from Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Engineering
A4	Basis of Computer Science and Mathematics practical classes
A5	Career opportunities available to STEM graduate
A6	Study Techniques
A7	The Impact of AI on higher education studies

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B1	Present data in reports in a readily-assimilated fashion, and in accord with scientific conventions
B2	Identify most successful learning techniques to improve academic journey and success rate
B3	Appreciate the interconnection between STEM subjects
B4	Practice on a range of appropriate and relevant experimental techniques and how they are used; be able to perform some of them.
B5	Identify skills required for job applications in STEM

Attributes:	
C1	To grasp the principles and practices of field of study
C2	To produce analyses which are grounded in evidence
C3	To apply analytical skills to investigate unfamiliar problems
C4	To work individually and in collaboration with others
C5	To develop a strong sense of intellectual integrity
C6	To acquire substantial bodies of new knowledge

**How will you learn?**

Independent study  
For every hour spent at university you will be expected to complete additional hours of independent study. Your individual study time could be spent preparing for, or following up on formal study sessions; reading; assessing data from experiments; completing lab reports; and revising for examinations.  
The direction of your individual study will be guided by the formal study and laboratory sessions you attend, along with your reading and assignments. However, we expect you to demonstrate an active role in your own learning by reading widely and

expanding your own knowledge, understanding and critical ability.

Independent study will foster in you the ability to identify your own learning needs and determine which areas you need to focus on to become proficient in your subject area. This is an important transferable skill and will help to prepare you for the transition to working life.

### How will you be assessed?

To pass a module, you must achieve an overall mark of 40% or above. The overall mark in most modules is based on your performance in both the examination and coursework, the weighting of these two components vary.

You must also meet the necessary progression requirements in order to progress to the next year.

### How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

#### Structure

The programme structure outlined below is indicative of what you will study. It may change slightly from year to year as new topics are introduced and after we have listened to current student feedback on teaching.

You will take 8 modules in total over two semesters, starting in September.

#### Year Long Modules

SEF041 Mathematics B (Core)

SEF042 Science and Engineering Success (Compulsory)

SEF043 Foundations of Chemical Science (Compulsory)

SEF044 Foundations of Physical Sciences (Core)

SEF046 Foundations of Engineering (Compulsory)

#### Semester 1

SEF030 Communication in Science & Technology (Core)

#### Semester 2

SEF047 Further Mathematics (Compulsory)

### Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Communication in Science and Engineering (CST)	SEF030	15	3	Core	0	Semester 1 or 2
Science and Engineering Success	SEF042	15	3	Compulsory	0	Semesters 1 & 2
Further Mathematics	SEF047	15	3	Compulsory	0	Semester 2
Mathematics B	SEF041	30	3	Core	0	Semesters 1 & 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Foundations of Chemical Science	SEF043	15	3	Compulsory	0	Semesters 1 & 2
Foundations of Physical Science	SEF044	15	3	Core	0	Semesters 1 & 2
Foundations of Engineering	SEF046	15	3	Compulsory	0	Semesters 1 & 2

### What are the entry requirements?

The International Science and Engineering Foundation programme (ISEFP) is suitable for international students with qualifications up to AS-level/Year 12 or equivalent. The ISEFP accepts applicants with a wide range of different qualifications. The grades you need to enter the course will vary depending on the qualification you have completed. For country-specific details, please refer to our detailed entry requirements: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/international-students/pathway-programmes/ify/ify-entry-requirements/>

You will need to provide the following documentation as part of your application:

Copies of your high school qualifications/transcript so far. This must show the subjects you are studying in your final year;  
A copy of your UKVI IELTS (or accepted equivalent) certificate if you have taken it already;  
A scanned copy of the data page of your passport (including any previous UK visas);

### How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the School, together with appropriate representation from staff within the School. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The Student-Staff Liaison Committees meets regularly throughout the year.

The School Education Committee advises the School's Director of Education on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level, including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through consideration of student surveys and input from the SSLC.

All schools operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Head of School, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the school's Annual Programme Reviews. Schools/institutes are required to produce a separate Annual Programme Review for undergraduate programmes and for postgraduate taught programmes using the relevant Undergraduate or Postgraduate Annual Programme Review pro-forma. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

### What academic support is available?

Each student is provided with an advisor who is their main point of contact for advice regarding academic matters and for assistance with pastoral concerns, throughout their whole programme. Students can see their advisors in their office hours or arrange an appointment via email. Moreover, if and when advisors are unavailable or cannot help with a specific problem, the School has several Senior Advisors to assist with student concerns.

The School also operates a PASS programme for peer guidance.

### How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific

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learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

**Programme-specific rules and facts**

N/A

**Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills**

Upon completing the 4-year programme, many graduates continue their studies with a PhD or MSc, often as a precursor to a career in research. The flexibility of the programme can prepare you for careers in specialist areas of physics and science more widely, if you have a particular area of interest.

Skills developed through studying physics – such as numeracy, data analysis, coding and problem solving – are also highly transferable into other sectors, including energy, business, marketing, engineering, technology, IT and finance.

Recent graduates of Physics degrees have been hired by:

- UK Space Agency
- JP Morgan Chase & Co. (financial services)
- European Astronaut Centre
- Airbus (aeronautical)
- KPMG (financial services)
- CGI (IT consultancy)
- Toad A.I.
- Goldman Sachs (investment banking)
- IBM (technology)
- Bank of England (banking)
- Baclays Corporate (banking)
- UK Government Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy
- Tata Consultancy Services
- Fidessa (financial services)
- Jacobs (engineering and construction)
- Kubick (data consultancy)
- MediaCom (marketing)
- Yobota (banking software)

**Programme Specification Approval**

**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Sarah Louise Lawrence

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**Person responsible for management of programme:**

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by  
School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:**

1 Feb 2024

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught  
Programmes Board:**