Physical sciences

UCAS Postgraduate

SUMMARY

Physical sciences is a broad discipline, bringing together many scientific fields. Courses cover key subject areas such as:

- chemistry
- materials science
- physics
- forensic and archaeological sciences
- astronomy
- geology
- science of aquatic and terrestrial environments
- physical geographical sciences

A number of universities offer four year undergraduate or integrated master's degrees in subjects such as geology (MGEOL / MSci), physics (MPhys / MSci), and chemistry (MChem / MSci).

TAUGHT

- **MSc** – one year full-time, two years part-time.

RESEARCH

- **MRes** – 18 months to three years full-time.
- **MSc** – one year full-time.
- **MPhil** – one to two years full-time
- **PhD** – three to four years full-time, seven to eight years part-time

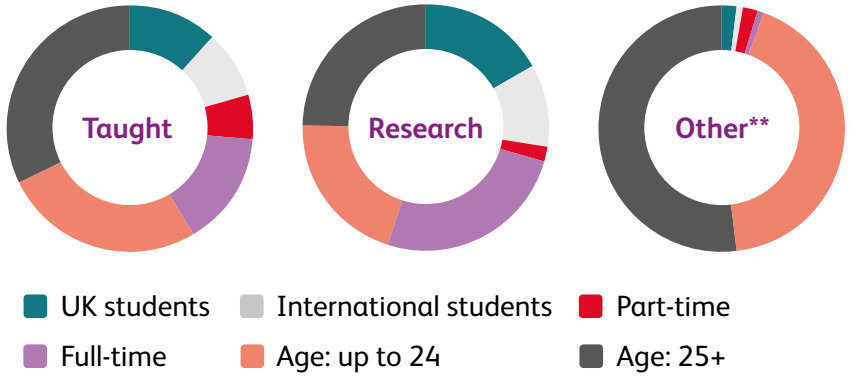
For more information, go to **www.ucas.com/postgraduate/what-to-study**.

> Many students continue in higher education to study an applied postgraduate course in their chosen field, such as petroleum or mineral exploration, engineering, hydrogeology, or environmental science. This is becoming increasingly important to begin a career as a professional geologist.'
>
> **(The Geological Society)**

> If you have identified a research group you would particularly like to work with, you can write speculatively by sending them your CV and a letter of introduction to make you stand out from the crowd. Make sure your application is highly targeted and refer to their publications and recent research, stating how you will be able to contribute'.
>
> **(Royal Society of Biology).**

WHO STUDIES PHYSICAL SCIENCES?

Total number of students – 19,300*



*Total number of students studying physical sciences for the 2013/14 academic year.

**Other includes postgraduate diplomas, certificates, and professional qualifications, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), level 7 Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector, higher education provider postgraduate credits, and non-formal postgraduate qualifications.

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Physical sciences **continued...**

CAREER AREAS

Key areas of employment include:

- aerospace and defence
- clinical research
- pharmaceuticals and biotechnology
- education
- meteorology
- oil and gas
- renewable energy
- scientific sales and marketing
- telecommunications

Related careers:

- astronomer
- chemist
- forensic scientist
- geoscientist
- medical physicist
- nuclear engineer
- pharmacologist
- research scientist
- physicist
- statistician
- science journal

PEOPLE WHO STUDIED PHYSICAL SCIENCES WENT ON TO WORK IN...*

Total number of people – 2,390**

0.42% Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	**6.28%** Mining and quarrying	**1.26%** Manufacturing	**1.26%** Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply	**1.46%** Water supply, sewerage, waste management, and remediation activities
2.51% Construction	**3.56%** Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	**0.84%** Transport and storage	**1.67%** Accommodation and food service activities	**4.81%** Information and communication
1.88% Financial and insurance activities	**0.42%** Real estate activities	**22.8%** Professional, scientific, and technical activities	**1.88%** Administrative and support service activities	**6.69%** Public administration and defence, compulsory social security
27.2% Education **0.42%** Unknown	**2.51%** Arts, entertainment, and recreation	**1.05%** Other service activities	**0.21%** Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	**3.77%** Human health and social work activities

*Source: HESA DLHE tables (2013/14)

**UK domiciled leavers who obtained postgraduate qualifications and were in employment for the academic year 2013/14.

ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) Careers
www.careers.abpi.org.uk

Royal Society of Chemistry
Tel: 020 7437 8656
www.rsc.org

Geological Society
Tel: 020 7434 9944
www.geolsoc.org.uk

physics.org
www.physics.org/careers

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