

Part III Astrophysics

The course contains a substantial research project, extending over two terms. For many students, the opportunity to conduct an in-depth independent research project, which may lead to students publishing their results in scientific journals, is a highlight of the Part III Astrophysics course. Alongside the research project, students choose from a recommended list of Part III Mathematics courses and Part III Physics courses.

Both Part II and Part III Astrophysics are hosted at the Institute of Astronomy where students benefit from the pleasant wooded environment, friendly atmosphere and small group size. Students can also volunteer to help with the Institute's vibrant public outreach programme.

What do people do after Part II and Part III Astrophysics?

The destinations of Astrophysics graduates after Cambridge are very varied. Many have proceeded to PhDs in Astronomy. In recent years, most of the students continuing to an Astronomy PhD have taken the Part III Astrophysics course, which is regarded as an elite qualification by astronomy departments both in Cambridge and elsewhere in the UK. A number of students have also gone on to acquire a range of (non-astronomy related) further qualifications that build on the solid mathematical skills acquired in Part II Astrophysics. Astrophysics degrees also equip graduates for a range of non-academic jobs, including teaching, software development, financial services and accountancy. Our graduates include investment bankers, business analysts, workers in the media and a vicar. In the words of an alumnus from 1996/ 1997 "...having 'Astrophysics Cambridge' on one's CV certainly opens a lot of doors!"



For further information about undergraduate Astrophysics courses, please email (or scan QR code above):
undergraduate.admin@ast.cam.ac.uk

Useful links

Undergraduate Astrophysics:

<http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/students>

Undergraduate Physics:

<https://www.phy.cam.ac.uk/students>

Undergraduate Mathematics:

<https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/undergrad>

Many students find the excitement of learning Astrophysics at the Institute re-invigorates their interest in science and mathematics. See below for some recent student comments on their experience of the course...

"The course was fantastic and more than lived up to my expectations, and the IoA is a really cool place"

"I have had a wonderful year and thoroughly enjoyed the course"

"Very enjoyable, challenging but manageable thanks to the support of the staff and lecturers. The environment is really nice at the department and I would definitely recommend the course in the future!"

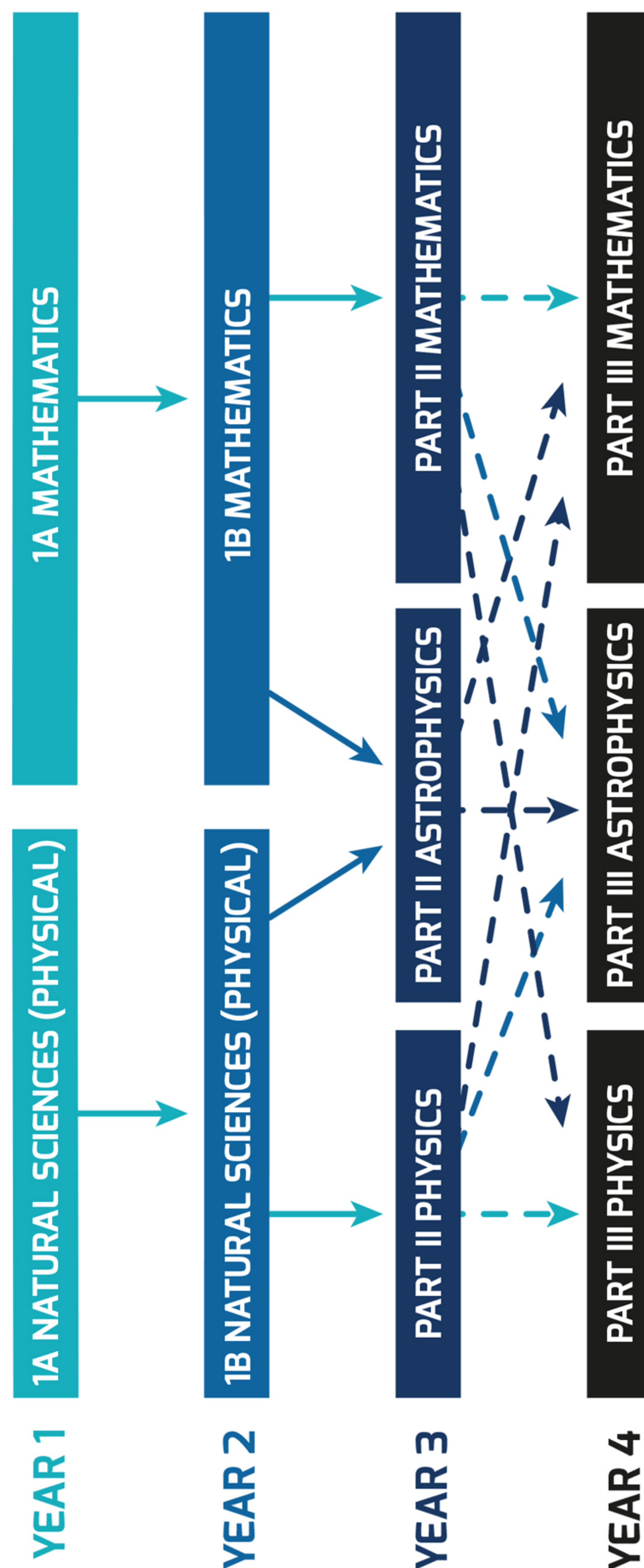
ASTROPHYSICS IN CAMBRIDGE



Astrophysics in Cambridge

Cambridge University is one of the main centres for astronomical research in the world, with hundreds of researchers working at the cutting edge of their subject areas. This may involve: designing and building telescopes and astronomical instrumentation; using telescopes around the world (and a range of satellites) to observe objects as diverse as quasars to exoplanets; or alternatively developing mathematical theories and testing them with complex computer simulations. These activities are spread between the three departments of Physics, Mathematics and the Institute of Astronomy.

Notable astronomers in these departments include Professor Didier Queloz (co-discoverer of the first extrasolar planet) and the Astronomer Royal, Sir Martin Rees.



Thinking of studying Astrophysics at Cambridge?

There are many exciting opportunities for studying Astrophysics at Cambridge either within the Mathematical or Natural Science Tripos. **Most students would study either Mathematics or Physical Natural Sciences (especially Physics) in their first two years (Part IA and Part IB). In the third and fourth years (Part II and Part III) it is possible to focus purely on Astrophysics within a dedicated course run by the University's Institute of Astronomy.**

There are also opportunities to study a number of Astrophysics courses while following a broader curriculum within Physics or Mathematics. Any of these courses provide an excellent foundation for postgraduate research in astronomy (in Cambridge or elsewhere) and also provide the high-level numerical skills that are valued by employers. There is also the opportunity to undertake an extensive research project in the final year of the Physics course which may be of an astronomical nature.

Part II Astrophysics

The Part II course is taken both by those intending to proceed to Part III Astrophysics (many of whom will be considering postgraduate research in the subject) and by those who graduate after three years and who use the training in physical inference that the course provides in a range of other disciplines after graduating. The syllabus contains 8 lecture courses and an essay/computer project.