Physics: MSc, PhD

The department of Physics, as part of Graduate Studies in Physics at University of Guelph & University of Waterloo and the Biophysics Interdepartmental Group (BIG), offers unique graduate opportunities in experimental and theoretical research. Our faculty members collaborate with exceptional research institutions including the Perimeter Institute, the Canadian Light Source, and TRIUMF.

gwp.on.ca

Program

We offer Master’s and Doctoral programs in the Physics and Biophysics programs. Master’s students can choose between a course work option (approximately three semesters) and research-based thesis option (approximately six semesters). The PhD program requires the successful completion of a qualifying exam and the completion and defense of a research-based thesis.

Research Fields

- Astrophysics and Gravitation
- Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics
- Biophysics
- Chemical Physics
- Condensed Matter and Material Physics
- Industrial and Applied Physics
- Quantum Computing
- Subatomic Physics

Admission Requirements

For the MSc program, applicants require an honours BSc, with a minimum B average (75%) in past two years of study.

For the PhD program, applicants require an MSc in Physics.

Application Deadline:
Ongoing

Entry: Fall, Winter, Spring

Application Requirements

In addition to meeting the minimum admission requirements, applicants are required to submit:
- All post-secondary transcripts
- Three (3) academic references
- Supplementary information form
- Physics Subject GRE (for applicants who did not complete post-secondary education in Canada)
- English Language Proficiency (for applicants for whom English is not their first language)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- Remotely exploring the surface of Mars
- Better physics education practices
- Remediation processes for industrial by-products
- Probing the early particle nature of the universe
- The development of gravitational wave spectroscopy

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Education
- Energy Production
- Financial Modeling
- Government & Policy
- Software Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

Graduate Coordinator, MSc & PhD:
Dr. Robert Wickham
519-824-4120 ext 53704
rwickham@uoguelph.ca

Graduate Program Assistant:
Kiley Rider
519-824-4120 ext 52263
krider@uoguelph.ca

As a member on Prof. Ralf Gellert’s team, Scott works on the alpha X-ray spectrometer (APXS), an instrument mounted on the Curiosity rover’s robotic arm. Testing soil and rock samples, it looks for evidence of water and life on Mars!

Scott VanBommel, PhD Physics (Photo: Zak Dykstra)
Departmental Graduate Faculty with Research Areas

**EXPERIMENTAL**

Leonid Brown:  
Photobiology, Biospectroscopy, Structure/Function of Membrane Proteins, Bioenergetics, Ion Transport, Photosensory Transduction, Retinal-binding Proteins (rhodopsins)

John Dutcher:  
Nanobiomaterials; physics of soft materials, surfaces and interfaces; polymers and biopolymers at the nanoscale; polymer physics; viscoelasticity; bacterial biophysics; biopolymer nanoparticles; thin film instabilities; self-assembly and pattern formation

Paul Garrett:  
Nuclear physics, nuclear spectroscopy, gamma-ray, neutron, and charged-particle detection, nuclear instrumentation, nuclear reactions, beta-decay, collective and single-particle excitations in nuclei

Raif Gellert:  
Mars Exploration, Geology of Mars, Habitability of Mars, Planetology, X-ray Spectroscopy, alpha particle spectroscopy, digital and analogue electronics, radiation damage, Mineralogy, data analysis

De-Tong Jiang:  
Condensed matter physics, Interface structure and function of electronic thin films of organic semiconductor and metal silicides, grazing-incidence X-ray scattering and spectroscopy techniques, arsenic speciation in environmental systems

Stefan Kycia:  
High energy x-ray diffraction, (high resolution radial distribution method) and by anomalous x-ray diffraction method, chemical composition, strain and elastic energy of self-assembled islands and other epitaxial systems

Vladimir Ladizhansky:  
Solid-state NMR, computational and biophysical methods, synthesis and purification of peptides and proteins, light-driven bacterial proton pump proteorhodopsin, photosensory cyanobacterial rhodopsin

Mike Massa:  
Soft and Hard Condensed Matter, Physics Education

Dennis Mücher:  
Atomic nuclei with a large excess of neutrons, stellar nucleosynthesis, applications of physics in cancer treatment

Joanne O’Meara:  
X-ray fluorescence (XRF) systems, physics education

Xiao-Rong Qin:  
Structural properties of vacuum vapour-deposited thin films of organic small molecules, carrier transport and other exceptional properties of films for applications in organic electronics

Carl Svensson:  
Evolution of nuclear shell structure in rare isotopes, superallowed Fermi beta decays, isospin caused by Coulomb and charge-dependent forces in the nucleus

Martin Williams:  
Physics Education, modern classroom technologies, designing inquiry-based physics labs to improve undergraduate learning outcomes

**THEORETICAL**

Liliana Caballero:  
Theoretical nuclear astrophysics, heavy elements, the neutrino emission in core-collapse supernova and neutron star mergers, and bursts in accreting neutron stars

Alexandros Gezerlis:  
Quantum many-body theory, fermions, ultracold atomic gases, terrestrial nuclei, neutron stars, nuclear astrophysics

Elisabeth Nicol:  
Superconductivity and graphene-based materials

Eric Poisson:  
Gravitational physics, general relativity, black holes, compact objects, gravitational waves, self-force

Robert Wickham:  
Polymer physics, soft materials, nano-scale self-assembly, non-equilibrium statistical mechanics, bacterial biophysics, simulation

Huan Yang:  
Gravitational wave physics; astrophysics in the strong gravity regime; gravity-fluid correspondence and holographic theories

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