

# Job of the Week – Astrophysicist

## Job description:

To study the universe to help us understand the physical matter and processes in our own solar system and other galaxies. It involves studying large objects such as planets as well as tiny particles.

## Pathway routes into the industry

You can get into this job through:

- university

You will need a degree and postgraduate qualification to work as an Astrophysicist.

You can also do an extended 4-year degree to get a postgraduate qualification. Many employers will expect you to have completed or be working towards a PhD.

## Entry requirements

You will usually need:

- Five GCSEs at grades 9-4 (A\*-C) or equivalent including English, Maths and Science
- 2-3 A-Levels or equivalent including Maths and Physics
- A degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study

## Subjects:

Relevant subjects include:

Maths, Physics, Astrophysics, Geophysics, Astronomy, Space Science

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## Pathway routes into the industry

You will need:

- maths knowledge
- knowledge of physics
- analytical thinking skills
- science skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to use your initiative
- the ability to think clearly using logic and reasoning
- concentration skills
- to have a thorough understanding of computer systems and applications

## Entry requirements

Your day to day duties will depend on your area of expertise. You can do observatory astronomy or theoretical astronomy.

### In observational astronomy, you could:

- collect and analyse data from satellites and spacecraft
- explore space using radio and optical telescopes
- design new instruments and maintain existing equipment
- develop software to interpret images and data captured by satellites

## Salary:

£15,600 for a starter, rising to £60,000 for an experienced Astrophysicist.