

MSc IN ASTRONOMY*

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION



My work consists of administrative work and advisory assistance to the Danish government in relation to climatology and climate research. I assist in the role of contact person between Denmark and the UN's climate panel, the IPCC, and I participate in the Danish delegation at negotiations under the UN Convention on Climate Change and in the EU coordination of scientific topics during international climate negotiations. I have conducted research on topics related to the stratosphere and the ozone layer, while the research I did as a PhD student had to do with the Northern Lights and space research. In my work, I draw on my background as a scientist to a high degree, including my background in astronomy.

TINA CHRISTENSEN

MSc and PhD in Astronomy
R&D, Danish Meteorological Institute

Measurements flow in every day from satellites in space and from observatories all over the world. Students on the MSc in Astronomy programme are actively involved in research and in the discussion of new discoveries and theories. Students study new planets orbiting other stars, examine the structure and development of the stars through seismological studies, and explore the earliest stages of the development of the universe, working with computer modelling or measurements from state-of-the-art telescopes and satellites.

RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION

Teaching on the astronomy programme is greatly influenced by research, both in the courses and the thesis work, as the lecturers are active researchers. In this context, students benefit from the down-to-earth, informal relationship between the academic staff and students. Each student is associated with a group of researchers for their thesis work in year two, and there is wide scope for specialisation, both within the Department of Physics and Astronomy and (thanks to the department's close collaborations with other centres) with researchers from the European Southern Observatory, the European Space Agency, and NASA.

SPECIALISATION

The MSc in Astronomy programme is open to students with a BSc degree in physics or another BSc degree in science with substantial physics and mathematics content. The programme is challenging and research-oriented, and reflects the interests of the private sector, research institutions and the public sector. It is also flexible, and can accommodate the interests and profile of the individual student.

Students can specialise within (for example) cosmology, star development or helioseismology; they can work with theory, and they can carry out astronomical observations. The programme also qualifies students for a career in research: students may apply for admission to the university's PhD programme either during the first year of the MSc programme or on completion of the thesis.

STUDENT LIFE

The Department of Physics and Astronomy aims to create a good student environment both in terms of working methods and in the social environment and facilities. When you write your master's thesis in one of the department's research groups, you will be given your own desk in an office that you will share with other students.

The department also has many social and academic associations with their own festive traditions. They organise events like the 'hat party,' celebrating the most recent graduates. There is also the Physics Friday bar, where students get together at the end of the week to enjoy a drink and a catch-up.

CAREERS

As a graduate of the MSc programme in astronomy, a wide range of career opportunities will be open to you. A number of graduates work in the private sector, for example in software companies where the astronomer's skills in image-processing and analysing large amounts of data are an important resource. Some astronomy graduates work in research positions in the private sector or in public research institutions such as universities, the European Southern Observatory (ESO) or the European Space Agency (ESA).



PLACE OF STUDY

Aarhus

ANNUAL TUITION FEE

EU/EEA/Swiss citizens: FREE
Others: EUR 13,500

WWW

masters.au.dk/astronomy

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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must have a bachelor of science degree, preferably in physics. Admission may be granted based on a BSc in another field provided this includes core courses in physics and astronomy totalling a minimum of 60 ECTS, as well as basic subject components in mathematics and statistics totalling at least 30 ECTS. Other qualifications may also give admission to the Master's programme, provided the university assesses their level, extent, and content as corresponding to the requirements stated above.

SELECTION CRITERIA

As the Master's programme admits only a limited number of students each year, meeting the admission requirements does not in itself guarantee admission to the programme. Student places are allocated on the basis of an overall assessment. In evaluating qualified applicants, the admissions committee assesses applicants according to the following criteria: academic background; overall grade level of bachelor's degree; grades achieved on relevant courses; and relevant courses (measured in credit units) included in the bachelor's degree.

Relevant courses include core courses within the subject areas of physics, astronomy, mathematics, and statistics.

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