

NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY
— OF CENTRAL —
LANCASHIRE



Space . . . Now everyone's invited to the final frontier

In September 2002, the University of Central Lancashire will launch a new degree course in Space Sciences which will open up the study of space to a whole new range of students.

By focusing on the historic, human and social issues relating to space and space exploration, the course is available to students of all disciplines, not just scientists. Even students who haven't studied maths and physics can now opt for a science degree which will develop their understanding and knowledge of the space environment.

"Until now, students who are intrigued by the idea of space and space exploration have only been able to do a degree in such a subject if they have a fairly strong maths or science background," says Course Leader, Dr Jim Gotaas. "This course, however, is more concerned with the ideas about space and its exploration, rather than the maths and physics behind it."

Organised around three main themes, Spaceflight, Life in Space and Space Missions, the course covers a range of exciting topics from the dynamics of space vehicle flight to the space environment and the effects of space weather on the Earth's weather. Extraterrestrial life, robotics, the effects of space flight on humans and the colonising of the Solar System are also studied.

The BSc(Hons) Space Sciences will be run by the Department of Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics, where several members of staff are already actively involved in current scientific space missions. The Department has its own purpose-built observatory at Alston, which students will use for night-time observing, as well as modern, well-equipped laboratories and teaching studios.

Says Dr Gotaas: "As well as gaining insights into the key scientific, technological and social issues relevant to human activity in space, there will be a strong emphasis on developing students' abilities to work in groups to solve real problems and to communicate those solutions to others, skills much sought after by employers."

Anyone requiring further information about the course should contact Dr Jim Gotaas at the University on 01772 893541.

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