

Why study Physics?

Physics underpins all sciences

As a result any one that seeks a career in Science, Engineering or Technology (SET) will need some Physics: careers ranging from Archaeology and Astronomy to X-ray Tomography and Zoology need Physics!

Look at your daily life and see the impact of Physics all around you – smart phones, iPads, Television, motor-cars, microwaves, electricity, e-readers . . . the list is almost endless. So the doorway to SET is through some Physics at tertiary level.

Physicists study the laws that govern the Universe and they try to answer questions like:

- Why is the sky blue?
- What keeps an aeroplane in the sky?
- What do the stars shine at night?
- How can radiation therapy cure some cancers?
- How can we create sustainable clean energy?

If you have a curiosity as to how and why things work you will have an interest in Physics, because you want answers to even the most difficult questions and to be able solve the hardest problems.

South Africa is about to build the largest science experiment in the history of humankind, the Square Kilometre Array, SKA, which, along with the Southern African Large Telescope, SALT, in Sutherland and the High Energy Stereoscopic System, HESS, in Namibia, will create the largest science hub on the planet, so opportunities for future careers in SET are very good.

For further details on Careers check out the [Careers in Physics Booklet](#)

Why take part in SAPHO?

The South African Institute of Physics (SAIP), is the voice of Physics in South Africa and SAPHO (SA Physics Olympiad) is a project of the SAIP which aims to find students (learners) from all parts of Southern Africa with ability in Physics.

Taking part in SAPHO gives you the opportunity to show your potential in Physics, which then could lead to the start of a career in SET, and doing well in SAPHO could add to your CV when applying to tertiary Institutions.

SAPHO is not something you can fail, but it can open doors to your future. For further details about how to enter SAPHO return to the [SAPHO 2016](#) page.

