

31 July 2012

Prof Rob Martin FInstP
Department of Physics and Applied Physics
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Glasgow
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Dear Professor Martin

The Career Paths of Physics Graduates

I am delighted to enclose two copies of a new report *The Career Paths of Physics Graduates*, presenting a summary of data drawn from the Institute's longitudinal study of physics graduates between 2006 and 2010.

This study gives the physics community authoritative information for the first time on the paths that physics graduates have taken as they start out on their careers. It has allowed us to understand the effect of degree type, degree class and institution, as well as gender and other characteristics.

We believe evidence of this nature is crucial to provide potential students with reliable information as they make choices about their future and negotiate increasingly complex decisions about university, levels of debt and prospects for future employment.

When the study was conceived, the economy was flourishing and graduate employment was high. The findings show that physics graduates have weathered the recession better than those from other subjects and uphold the Institute's belief that a physics degree is an excellent career choice. Offering the opportunity to study an exciting and dynamic subject, while developing knowledge and skills valued by a wide range of employment sectors as demonstrated in the study.

The findings of the study will contribute to the IOP's work to promote physics to young people and inform the careers advice that is given to current physics students about the many and varied careers open to them.

We hope you will find the report a valuable reference source. It is also available to download from our website www.iop.org/publications/iop/2012/page_53421.html. On this page you will also find the Institute's recent series of statistical reports which may be also be of interest to you:

- *Academic Physics Staff in UK Higher Education Institutions*
- *Physics Students in UK Higher Education Institutions*
- *Research Income of Physics Cost Centres in UK Higher Education Institutions*
- *Accepted Applicants to Degree Courses in UK Higher Education Institutions*
- *Degree-Course Destinations of Accepted Applicants with Physics and Mathematics A-level or Scottish Higher 2006-11*

If you would like more copies of the Career Paths report or wish to suggest someone who would also wish to receive a copy please contact Frances Ling, email frances.ling@iop.org or telephone 020 7470 4842.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter C. Main', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Peter Main
Director, Education and Science