THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Physics and Astronomy

Transcript for "Careers – MSc Programmes in TP&MP" video

MSc in Theoretical Physics (TP)
MSc in Mathematical Physics (MP)

Emmy Gabriel: Coming in to the MSc I had done some, I had some background already on particle physics and on quantum field theory, and my main goal being here was just to deepen this knowledge and to learn more, to understand more. It is part self-study but also the professors were very helpful and would answer whatever I wanted to know about the subject. So, I do feel that if I want to go into research after this I do have the necessary skills and knowledge.

Odi Soler Gibert: When I chose the Masters, I wanted to do a PhD later. Now I discovered that I can also go into other professional careers, like computing, or consultancy.

Ewen Gillies: I have chosen to pursue an experimental particle physics PhD, even though both my undergraduate and my graduate degrees were in theoretical physics. I started a PhD at Imperial College London. I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship for this, which has allowed me to continue my research in particle physics.

Andrew Thornbury: To get like a better knowledge of like fundamental physics and then kind of like figure out what I wanted to do, did I want to stay in academia, or did I want to go into a job, and I was expecting that from like, that by the end of the Masters I'd know what I wanted to do. Next year I'm going to apply for PhD places. So, the MSc and like my supervisor really helped me along with that. So it's been good.

Emmy Gabriel: So you can pick your own courses, so if you know what you're interested in, for example a PhD, you can pick the courses that would be relevant for you and you would have a very good basic knowledge, starting your PhD, or the research that you want to do.

Ewen Gillies: I was given plenty of opportunities to gain practical experience, in the field I'm interested in, which really gave me a leg up on other applicants. For example I was given the opportunity to pursue a

project during my course time, separate from my Master's Degree, that let me do some research with LHCB at CERN and I completed a full LHCB analysis while still in the actual course period which was really, really strong on my application. During the Master's Degree I was allowed to go to Russia for two months and complete a project around there with the St Petersburg State University. So these kinds of actual doing research with other physicists at PhD level, gave me a really, really strong application for my PhD.

Andrew Thornbury: The MSc will be very helpful when I'm looking PhDs next year, because obviously the name recognition is very helpful. Also, aside from that, the courses that we've done are very good courses. They're very like internationally recognised, and also the project and the work, the research work that I have been doing on the dissertation has been very good, and been supervised by a very good supervisor, so that will help me a lot when I'm applying for PhDs.

Ewen Gillies: I didn't anticipate how well the MSc would prepare me for pursuing my own research essentially. I was given a lot of freedom in choosing to do the things I wanted, and now that I start a PhD I find that my ability to steer the direction of my PhD is really good. I can understand the opportunities in front of me much better, having been given so many essentially.

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Transcript by McGowan Transcriptions