



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## School of Physics and Astronomy

### *Transcript for “Programmes & courses – MSc Programmes in TP & MP” video*

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*MSc in Theoretical Physics (TP)*

*MSc in Mathematical Physics (MP)*

Andrew Thornbury: The courses are great, the courses are really great. You've got lots of choices, if you're into 'mathsy' stuff you can go to the School of Maths and get all of their courses, if you're in fundamental particles and particle physics you've got the Higgs Centre and everyone working there, and if you're interested in astronomy and cosmology you can go up the hill to the observatory and take any of their courses up there. So you really do have a lot of choice, it really is great.

Odi Soler Gibert: I took a Bachelor in Maths and a Bachelor in Physics, I was applying for a Masters in Pure Maths, in Physics, and then I saw this course, this programme, which was the Masters in Mathematical Physics. It allowed me to keep studying physics, theoretical physics and at the same time some maths courses which, it was perfect for me.

Emmy Gabriel: A couple of my favourite courses were the particle physics course, which also ties into the dissertation I'm doing right now, and the modern quantum field theory course was very interesting, and one of my favourites.

Andrew Thornbury: I'm into particle physics myself so I'm more at the Higgs Centre down here, but then I also take a couple of astronomy ones up the hill, so I'm getting lots of exercise running up and down the hill.

Emmy Gabriel: We're located at Kings Buildings which is where all of us spend all of our time. There is a library which has very good resources, and books, mainly science focused. There is a bar, there is a gym, we have our MSc room which we use a lot for studying, for hanging out.

Ewen Gillies: Another great part about the MSc is the full access the staff give you to the Higgs Centre and all the symposiums they put on. So every week there's a lecture from a different academic, from somewhere, usually within Europe but you know international community, talking about their research. As an MSc

student you're invited to these talks and while they may be difficult for our level, it's a great way to really understand the way research is done at a high level. You have all your other lecturers there, they welcome questions from MSc students, and every week it's a different topic so you can get a real flavour for what's out there.

Emmy Gabriel: All the professors are very approachable so if you have a problem or if there is something that you would like to find out more, so you want to know about a good book or a good website to use you can always email the professors, go up to their office, and that approachability to me is very valuable.

Andrew Thornbury: The first semester is problem solving in theoretical physics. That's the only compulsory course. Then apart from that you have 50 credits to choose whatever you want to do. There are some Christmas exams but not very many, so it's quite a relaxed term. The second term is more intense, you have the research skills in theoretical physics, which are preparing you for doing the dissertation over the summer. And as well as that you do another 50 credits of taught courses. Then you have most of your exams in the summer, so that can get quite intense and people do get a bit stressed but everyone gets through okay, usually. Then in the summer you do your research project and you get your chance to work on whatever you want to do, with whoever you want to work with.

Emmy Gabriel: There's usually some PhD students related to the area that were there to help you, so this could create a bond between students and the PhD students.

Andrew Thornbury: To like have the people there who are all very good teachers, and then have the dissertation to do your own research and learn how to do all of that, so it really does train you well for being an academic. It's a well taught course and a well-structured course, I think.

Ewen Gillies: You are given courses or problems to do for tutorials and lectures. But the way in which you approach these is very much your own decision and the way in which you manage your time is very much in your own control. I found that to be very beneficial to how I now approach my research. I have my own way of thinking and my own way of working which has been proved invaluable in my current PhD.

Andrew Thornbury: I have really enjoyed the MSc. I do like it all. I've enjoyed the choices of courses, I've enjoyed the courses themselves, I've enjoyed the teaching. I've enjoyed the extracurricular stuff, I've enjoyed meeting the people here, I've enjoyed socialising with people here. I've enjoyed my project, I've enjoyed going to CERN, I've enjoyed working with my supervisor. It's all been good.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPT]**