

ASTRONOMY - BEGINNERS NEXT STEPS

Course Name	Start Date	End Date	Site	Total Fees
Astronomy Beginners Next Steps	04/01/2027	15/03/2027	Online Delivery	138.00

01. Who is this course for?

This course is ONLINE and provides you with a further journey into the fascinating science of astronomy. A small amount of prior knowledge is assumed but an enthusiasm to find out about the universe around us is very important. It is delivered as a 10 week evening course, 2 hours per session. You may have completed the Introduction to Astronomy course prior to this.

02. What will I learn?

We will keep up to date with the latest space and astronomy news. Planets and stars on view will be discussed as well as some of the latest findings from space missions. Tools that astronomers use to probe the universe will be considered and the basic science behind these. Where possible, every effort will be made to accommodate the particular interests of learners. Mini-projects and observing will require a short period of time outside formal class sessions.

03. How will I learn?

This is delivered ONLINE over 10 weeks of 2 hours per week. It is tutor-led but contributions from learners are actively encouraged. Reference materials will be provided for you to help support study at home. Regular feedback on your progress using an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) will be given. The ILP sets out your personal learning aims and the overall learning objectives of your course and allows you, and your tutor, to evaluate your progress and set learning goals

04. What will I need to bring?

As this course is online, you will need access to a PC or laptop and have a reliable internet connection. If you do not have access to a PC or laptop, then we recommend contacting your tutor as we may be able to help. All Leicestershire Libraries offer FREE public WiFi and study spaces if you do not have an appropriate space at home. Use of a mobile phone or tablet for this course is not recommended. Paper and pens, or even a small laptop, to help you take notes will prove useful.

05. What skills or experience do I need?

You will need some prior knowledge of astronomy. YOU may have completed the Introduction to Astronomy Course. You will need to have a good standard of English language, reading and writing and numeracy to attend this course. You will also need to have basic ICT/Digital Skills as the course is online. If you are concerned about your English, maths or IT skills, we recommend you speak to your tutor, as we may be able to help.

06. How will I be assessed?

The course is not accredited. Your learning is assessed by producing a mini-project(s) on a variety of topics. Contributions you make to class discussions and an observing list also form part of the assessment. Assessments will be recorded on your ILP.

07. What could I do after this course?

Once you complete this course you may want to progress further in your learning journey. A potential progression course is Astronomy Intermediate Level (online). This will build upon your existing knowledge.

08. How will I be supported in my learning?

We aim to support all learners to succeed. Our tutors will work with all learners to meet individual needs by using a range of resources and teaching methods. When you enrol on your course, you will be asked if you have any additional learning needs or disabilities which may affect your learning. This might include physical disabilities, neurodivergent needs (e.g., Autistic Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, dyslexia, or dyspraxia, etc.), visual and auditory impairments, or a medical condition which might affect your learning. Your tutor will contact you prior to joining the course to discuss what support can be put in place. For some learners this may mean organising extra time in exams or arranging for a Learning Support Assistant to support your learning in class. We also offer a wide range of assistive technology such as reader pens, screen readers, large print keyboards and screens, alongside in-class resources such as coloured overlays, large-print resources and more.

09. Is help available with course fees?

Many of our courses are FREE to all learners. Your course may be FREE if you are unemployed or earn under £26,800 before deductions. If you are in receipt of state benefits or have a low income (£28,733.50 before deductions) you could be entitled to enrol on your course at a 70% reduced fee cost. Some exclusions apply, eligibility for fee reduction is subject to change, and you may be required to provide evidence of earnings. If the amount you must pay for your course is over £50, we offer instalment plans which break down the cost of learning into a set number of easy monthly payments. If you need help with the wider costs of study, such as childcare, resources, travel, and transport costs, you may be eligible to have these costs reimbursed through our Discretionary Learner Support Fund. Visit us online for more details, and to download the online application form.

10. How do I choose the right course for me?

If you are unsure about which course may be right for you, our Business Support team are on hand to offer FREE and impartial information, advice and guidance on the options available to you. Please call FREEphone 0800 988 0308 or email adult.learning@leics.gov.uk