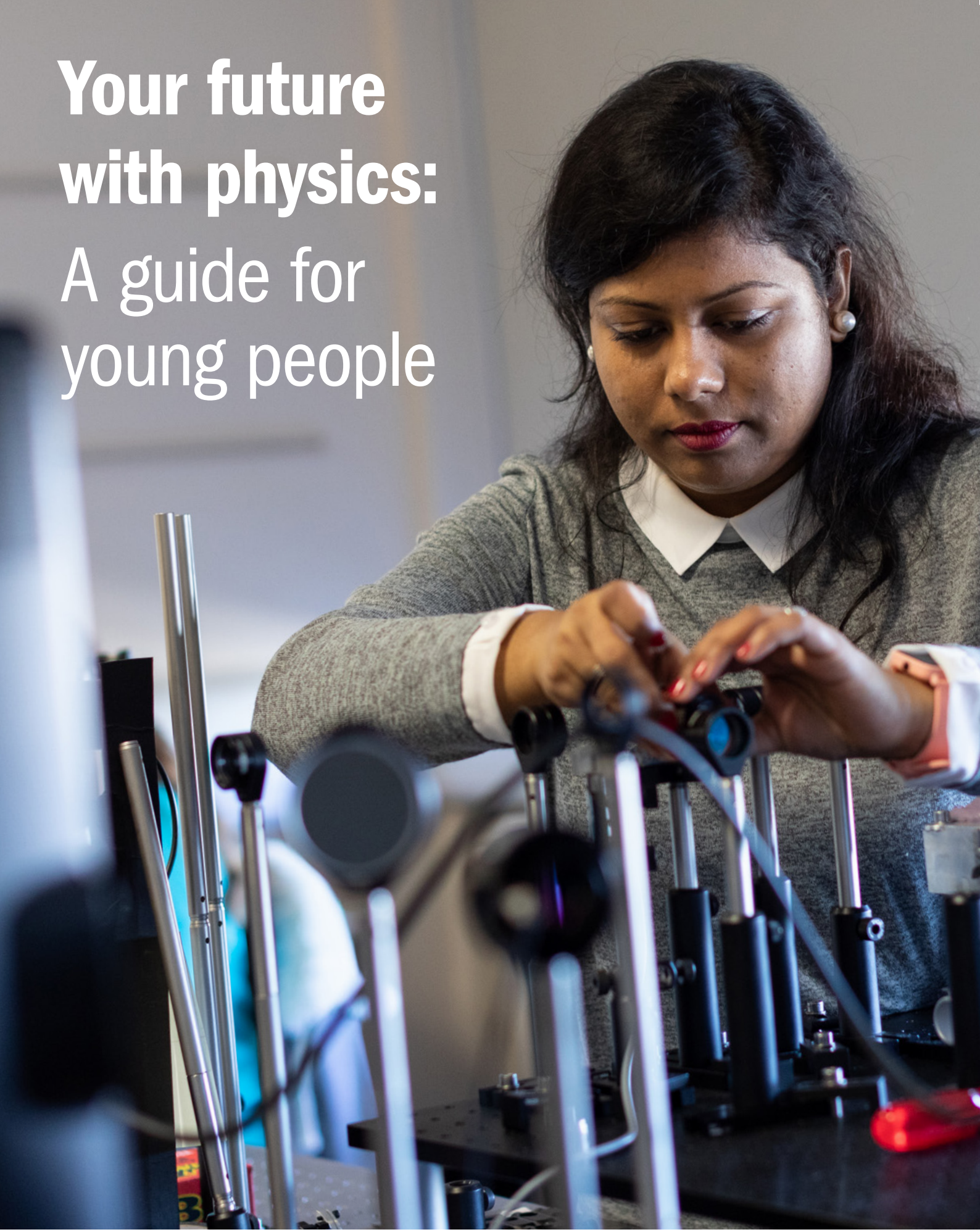
Your future with physics:

A guide for young people



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IOP Institute of Physics

Your future with physics: A guide for young people

Physics opens doors to some of the most exciting, cutting-edge, rewarding jobs in the world. This is our guide to where physics could take you in your studies and future career – featuring information, advice and inspirational, real-world stories.

So why choose physics?

You might think we're biased – but we know what we're talking about. Physics is a "facilitating subject", meaning that it's highly regarded whatever degree or career path you choose. It's considered essential for science and engineering courses, so it keeps a lot of doors open for you.

Physics opens these doors because of the skills and ways of thinking it teaches you. You'll pick up mathematical and analytical techniques that are valued in a huge range of careers **(just have a look at these...)**. You'll become a critical and creative thinker, and a problem solver.

What will I study?

Topics depend on the exam board your school or college follows, so it varies – but most will delve deeper into familiar topics like measurement, forces, waves, radioactivity, electricity and magnetism.

But you may also get to explore exciting new areas such as particle physics, quantum physics, cosmology and medical physics. Physics gives you an understanding of the scientific principles that govern our world. You'll develop the tools needed to tackle questions about the universe that you've always wanted to answer for yourself.

Where can it lead?

Many physics students go on to further study at **university.** Some choose to continue with physics, studying a Physics degree or specialising in topics like Theoretical Physics, Astrophysics or Geophysics. Others choose related subjects like Chemistry, Biology or Maths – but physics also opens pathways to subjects like Engineering, Design, Computing, Sports Science, Medicine, Economics and Law.

If uni doesn't appeal and you want to enter the world of **work** straight after school or college, having physics on your CV can give you an advantage. It shows employers that you have an aptitude for logical reasoning, problem-solving and creative thinking – and it helps you to stand out from the crowd.

It's also an advantage when applying for many **apprenticeships**, where you can earn while you learn to become a civil engineering technician, software developer, sound technician – and hundreds of other professions.

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Career Paths

Physics at University

Useful career links