

# Astronomers

Astronomers study the origin and structure of the universe, including its planets, stars, galaxies and black

Average salary (a year)	Typical hours (a week)	You could work
 £31,000 Starter	 39 to 41 irregular	 evenings / weekends / bank holidays away from home

## Different routes to get this job

(check the website for entry requirements)

You'll need a degree and postgraduate qualification to work as an astronomer. You'll usually need to have achieved a first or a 2:1 in your degree.

## Skills and knowledge

- maths knowledge
- knowledge of physics
- analytical thinking skills
- science skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to use your initiative
- the ability to think clearly using logic and reasoning
- concentration skills
- to have a thorough understanding of computer systems and applications

## Day-to-day tasks

In observational astronomy, you could:

- collect and analyse data from satellites and spacecraft
- explore space using radio and optical telescopes
- design new instruments and maintain existing equipment
- develop software to interpret images and data captured by satellites

In theoretical astronomy, you could:

- create computer models to test theories about space activities
- analyse the results of past observations to make new predictions
- make observations and develop theories
- analyse data to help build our understanding of events in the universe