

Aurora Astronomy School

Department of Physics and Astronomy
College of Science



26-30 April 2011

Information and application form

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Aurora Astronomy School Information

Have you ever wondered what is beyond our world, if other Earth-like planets exist, or how black holes are formed? Perhaps you have thought about how the universe started, where we are in space and time and what will happen as the universe evolves. If you have, then apply for a place on the Aurora Astronomy School.

This camp is aimed at Year 13 students. It will be held both at our Ilam campus and at Mt John Observatory in Tekapo. On campus at the University of Canterbury we will talk about the universe past, present and future, the life cycles of stars, planet exploration, extraterrestrial life and more. We will then travel to the Mt John Observatory at Tekapo where we will explore our cosmic neighborhood with modern astronomical instruments. The programme will contain a mix of seminars and practical work.

How to Apply

Places on the Aurora Astronomy School are limited to 20 participants each year. Applications from Year 13 students are favoured, but we will consider applications from Year 12 students. Acceptance is based on a student's written application and NCEA results. We ask students to include a copy of their latest NCEA results (or equivalent) with their application, and a note of their current subjects.

Cost

Thanks to a generous donation from a private sponsor the Aurora Astronomy School is offered free of charge. Accommodation, transport during the camp and materials are provided. Breakfast and dinner for out-of town students are included, Monday evening to Saturday, inclusive. Participating students must cover the cost of lunches, and any extra snacks and meals if they arrive earlier or depart later.

Students will need to cover the cost of travel to and from the University of Canterbury, though some assistance with travel expenses may be available later (see below).

Accommodation

Students from outside Christchurch can be provided with accommodation from Monday 25th April, and this will probably be in the halls of residence. During the visit to Mount John accommodation will be provided at the Tekapo Motor Camp.

Alternatively, students can arrange their own accommodation in Christchurch, but all



participants will stay at the Tekapo Motor Camp for two nights.

Out of town participants may depart on Saturday afternoon (or on Sunday 1st May if necessary).

Safety

As the University of Canterbury is responsible for the health and safety of the participants students may not travel off campus or away from the group unless accompanied by a postgraduate student or staff member. All students must follow any rules and instructions given to them by designated staff and postgraduate students.

Transport

Transport to the University of Canterbury should be arranged so participants can arrive in time to register before 9.00 am on Tuesday 26th April. Students will be free to leave by 4:00pm on Saturday 30th April.

We will ask participants to book their own travel to and from Christchurch, and to retain their GST receipts. We will have some funding to assist with this travel. The exact amount available to each student will depend on total costs for all students. It is expected that students will book flights early to avoid high costs. We will endeavour to divide the available funding on an equitable basis. GST receipts will be required for reimbursement of travel costs. All travel and accommodation arrangements will be confirmed with successful applicants. Airport pick-ups can usually be arranged.

Dates

Applications close Friday 25th March. Students will be notified of the outcome of their application by Friday 1st April.

Contact

For further information and enquiries please contact:

Department Administrator
Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of Canterbury
Private Bag 4800
Christchurch 8140
Phone: 03 364 2404
Fax: 03 364 2469
Email: hod-secretary@phys.canterbury.ac.nz

Please send the completed application form, endorsed by your science teacher, with a copy of your latest NCEA results (or equivalent) to the Department of Physics and Astronomy, at the postal address, or fax number or email above. Applications should arrive **no later than 5.00pm, Friday 25th March**. Be aware that items sent by NZPost can take up to 8 days to be delivered. **Late applications cannot be accepted.**

Application Form

Personal Details (please write clearly)

Preferred first name _____ Surname _____ Male Female

Address _____ Post code _____ Year 13 Year 12

Email (This will be used to correspond with you - please write clearly) _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____ School name _____

Using no more than this space, please explain why you wish to participate in the Aurora Astronomy School:

Please list the subjects you are studying this year:

Please add additional information that is relevant to your application (eg, if you are a member of an astronomy club, what you intend to study at university and so on).

Transport

- Yes, I would like help with my transport costs
 No, I do not require help with my transport costs

Diet

Please state if you have any special dietary or other health requirements:

Accommodation (tick boxes as necessary)

- Yes, I will require accommodation in Christchurch
 No, I do not require any accommodation in Christchurch

Accommodation arrangements, including any additional nights required, will be confirmed with successful applicants.

Declaration

I have discussed this application with my parent(s)/guardian(s). If selected to attend I agree to follow instructions and rules.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Supporting Science Teacher to Complete

Full Name _____ Email _____

Yes, I support this application. Signed _____ Dated _____

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