

Keele University – Astrophysics Research Experience

Between 8-12 July 2019, the Astrophysics Group at Keele University will be hosting a week-long “research experience”, at the Lennard-Jones laboratories on Keele campus. The project is aimed at students with a keen interest in science, technology and computing that are in in years 10, 11 or 12 of their school/college studies and who are perhaps thinking of going on to do science at University.

The research experience will involve students working in small teams on research projects that utilise data from world-class observatories, such as the NASA Kepler satellite and Keele’s SuperWASP telescopes. The teams will be responsible for researching the context of their work, analysing data, recording their results, drawing conclusions and then presenting their work to the rest of the group.

The scheme was successfully piloted in June 2016 with 24 students from local schools and colleges – see http://bit.ly/keele_astro_we_2016 and won the Keele University 2016 prize for innovation in outreach. It ran in 2017 and 2018 too. This year, the scientific focus will be on the analysis of eclipsing binary stars discovered in the Kepler K2 and SuperWASP surveys, forming part of a wider research project that aims to understand “tidal locking” and orbit circularisation in binary star systems. Students will gain experience of working in a university environment, and improve transferable skills such as information sifting; data analysis; logical thinking; communication and presentation. It is also a chance to meet new people and work together on challenging problems in a supportive environment, supervised by Professor Rob Jeffries and other members of the Keele Astrophysics Group.

Interested students should complete an application form (that can be found at http://bit.ly/keele_astro_we_application), including a short statement (no more than a paragraph) saying why they would like to do this research/work experience, what they are currently studying and what their career aspirations are, and email this either directly or through their school/college to Prof Jeffries r.d.jeffries@keele.ac.uk . We request an equally short statement, to be submitted separately, from a teacher or tutor to indicate that they believe the student would benefit from this experience and summarising the student’s performance. Places are limited and applications should be received before 25 February 2019.

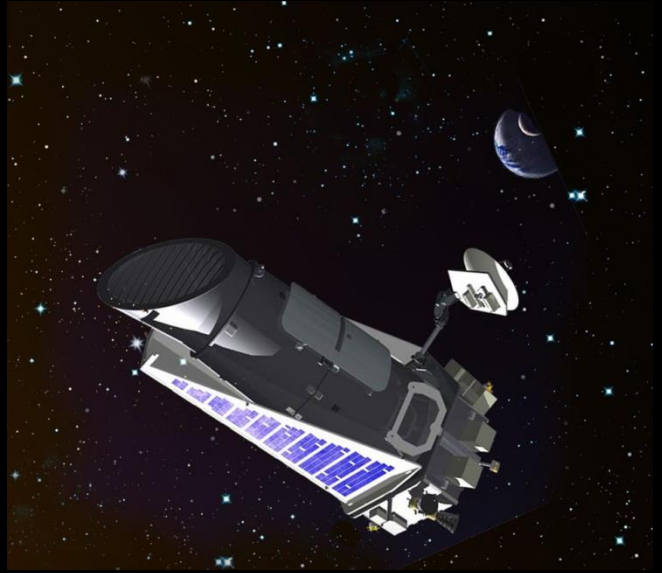


Keele Astrophysics Group

Interested in studying science at A-level and at degree level?

Want a work experience week with a difference?

The Keele University Astrophysics Group is offering a week-long research experience from 8-12 July 2019. Dedicated young scientists will work in teams on a genuine research project, using world-class data from space telescopes. See over for details.



Eclipsing Binary Stars

