Entry into Part II and Part III Astrophysics of the Natural Sciences Tripos and expected prerequisites listed below. These are not absolutely binding and individual cases can always be discussed specifically.

To Part II Astrophysics

Students normally enter from either IB Natural Sciences or IB Mathematics.

From IB Natural Sciences

Students have usually taken Physics A, Physics B and Mathematics. Astrophysics part II courses build on material from both Physics A and Physics B. Students who have not taken either one of these will need to catch up on Quantum Mechanics, Electromagnetism, Classical Mechanics and Thermodynamics as necessary.

A good understanding of IA Mathematics for Natural Sciences can be sufficient but students who proceed to part III will find a substantial amount of material from IB Mathematics for Natural Sciences necessary.

From IB Mathematics

Students have usually taken all the applied/theoretical physics courses, Methods, Quantum Mechanics, Complex Methods (or Analysis), Electromagnetism, Fluid Dynamics and Variational Principles.

Material from all applied IA courses may be assumed.

To Part III Astrophysics

Students enter from Part II Astrophysics, Part II Mathematics, Part II Physics or externally as MASt students.

Part III Astrophysics takes most of its courses from part III Mathematics. Students can expect that a good understanding of any material from both IA and IB Mathematics for Natural Sciences to be assumed. Equivalently any material from the IA Mathematics courses (except Numbers and Sets) and the applied IB courses may be assumed.

Part II Astrophysics - a student with a II.1 at part II may proceed automatically to part III.

Part II Mathematics - each case is considered individually. The typical requirement is at least a II.1 at part II with alphas awarded for answers to questions on at least three different theoretical physics courses. Theoretical physics is liberally interpreted in this context. For example, Mathematical Biology is considered a very suitable course.

Part II Physics - each case is considered individually and at least a II.1 at part II is expected.

Specific prerequisites and expectations for each course can be found in the course descriptions available online.