

**Benjamin Henderson**

**University of Bristol**

**Research area: Astrophysics**

**Project title:**

Star Formation History &  
Morphology of Two Component  
Galaxies

**About me:**

I have always had an interest in science and at a young age decided that I wanted to do astronomy. I picked my undergraduate degree when I was 14 and spent the rest of my schooling making sure I got there. I attended The University of Western Australia and did a Bachelor of Science with majors in Astronomy & Astrophysics and Applied Mathematics, following up with a Master of Physics specialising in Astronomy & Astrophysics.

**Science/research area:**

My research areas of interest are extragalactic astronomy and galaxy evolution. I am interested in studying the mechanisms that cause galaxies to change shape, colour and brightness. I work primarily in the optical and infrared wavelength ranges, which probe the stars and dust content of galaxies.

Towards the end of my master's degree I knew I wanted to do a PhD but didn't want to rush straight in, so I worked part time as a research assistant in astrophysics at UWA and published my first paper. I enjoyed the research but I wanted to leave Perth and WA, as a dual national I simply packed up and moved to the UK.

**Data Intensive Research Skills and Interests:**

My primary programming language is R, I am also proficient in Python and I can read and interpret C, though have little experience writing it. I am interested in machine learning techniques such as neural networks and unsupervised learning.