

## University of Hertfordshire planetarium – Booking information

### Planetarium requirements

The planetarium is a soft inflatable dome, with a capacity of 30 primary or 25 secondary school pupils. It can be set up in a gym hall or similar, with the following requirements:

- Floor space of 7 × 7 metres
- Height clearance of 4 metres (including light fittings)
- Two plug sockets
- The dome does not block any escape routes

We do not usually put any seating inside the dome, but gym mats can be used to cover the floor space if available and we can happily accommodate a few chairs for accessibility if required.

The planetarium consists of several bulky pieces of equipment, so if it is possible to park (at least temporarily) in a location close to the room where the planetarium will be set up, this makes everything easier for us! Likewise, if there are any staff available who can help move equipment at the beginning and end of the day, please let us know.

### Shows

We can offer planetarium shows on various space topics – if there is an area of interest for a particular year group based on their curriculum, let us know and we can adapt a standard show. We offer three standard shows:

**A tour of the Solar System (KS2):** In this show we take a tour around the Solar System, where we visit our star the Sun and each of the planets from Mercury to Neptune. Throughout we will examine interesting moons and follow famous space missions, and visit some other unusual objects we find in the Solar System.

**Stars and Constellations (KS2):** In this show we look at the constellations, and how they have been used historically to tell stories, for navigation, and to understand the night sky. We further investigate stars – starting with our own star the Sun, then how stars are born and how they die – and some other interesting phenomena in our own galaxy the Milky Way.

**Earth, Sun, Moon (KS1):** This short show is great for young audiences – we take a look at our own planet Earth and then visit the Sun and the Moon. We look at how craters are formed, and how the Sun creates the Aurora Borealis or northern lights. This show can also be expanded to include more science content for older groups who would also like a short show.

For secondary groups, we can offer expanded versions of the shows above as well as shows based on University of Hertfordshire astrophysics research.

## Scheduling

It takes ~45 minutes to set up the planetarium e.g. for an 8.15 arrival, we can begin shows at 9.00. We also recommend allowing 5 minutes at the start and end of each show to allow for a quick safety talk and the time it takes to seat children in the dome.

We are happy to adapt the length and content of planetarium shows to suit the age and ability of groups, and the schedule for the day is up to you. In general, we recommend scheduling 1.5 shows per hour, e.g. three groups coming through the planetarium every two hours. This allows for a 25 minute show, a 5 minute question & answer session, and 5 minutes turnaround either side. For younger groups (reception/year 1) we are happy to do much shorter shows, and for secondary groups we can do one show per hour. An example schedule is shown below.

| TIME  | ACTIVITY                   | DURATION       | YEAR GROUP |
|-------|----------------------------|----------------|------------|
| 8:15  | <i>Arrive &amp; set up</i> | <i>45 mins</i> |            |
| 9:00  | Tour of the Solar System   | 40 mins        | Year 2     |
| 9:40  | Tour of the Solar System   | 40 mins        | Year 3     |
| 10:20 | Tour of the Solar System   | 40 mins        | Year 4     |
| 11:00 | <i>Break</i>               | <i>15 mins</i> |            |
| 11:15 | Earth, Sun, Moon           | 20 mins        | Reception  |
| 11:35 | Earth, Sun, Moon           | 20 mins        | Year 1     |
| 11:55 | Earth, Sun, Moon           | 20 mins        | Year 1     |
| 12:15 | <i>Lunch</i>               | <i>60 mins</i> |            |
| 1:15  | Stars & Constellations     | 40 mins        | Year 5     |
| 1:55  | Stars & Constellations     | 40 mins        | Year 5     |
| 2:35  | Stars & Constellations     | 40 mins        | Year 6     |
| 3:15  | <i>Pack up</i>             | <i>30 mins</i> |            |

## Pricing

We charge £65 per hour we are on site. This includes the time to set up and disassemble the planetarium. We will round to the nearest half hour (for example, if we are there for 4 hours 20 minutes, we will round up to 4 hours 30 minutes).

For local schools within 30 minutes travel time from the UH College Lane campus, we do not charge for travel costs, but for schools further afield we charge £60 per hour travel time one way (so if the school is 1 hour's drive from UH according to Google maps, that would add £60 to the total cost).

For the example schedule above we would be on site for 7.5 hours, so the cost would be £487.50.