

Prof. Ian Robson

Career

- 1969: BSc first class honours in Physics, Queen Mary College, University of London
- 1973: PhD in observational cosmology (QMC) ‘An experiment to measure the cosmic microwave background radiation spectrum between 3mm and 300 μ m wavelength’
- 1973-78: Post-doc and Temporary Lecturer QMC
- 1978: Senior Lectureship at Preston Polytechnic to become the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN);
- 1983: Reader in Astrophysics followed by Chair in Astrophysics in 1986 UCLAN;
- 1987 - 1992: Head of Department of Physics and Astronomy and Director of Observatories UCLAN
- 1992 - 2002: Director of the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope and the Joint Astronomy Centre, Hilo, Hawaii
- 2002: Deputy Director of the UK Astronomy Technology Centre (Royal Observatory Edinburgh) - remit to change the culture
- 2005 Director of the UKATC
- 2005: Honorary Professor University of Edinburgh; 2006: Honorary Fellow UCLAN;
- 2009-12: Director Science & Technologies Facility Council Technology Dept

Research interests: submillimetre astronomy; active galaxies; multifrequency observations of blazars; debris disks; published over 200 refereed papers, edited four international conference proceedings; published an undergraduate textbook (Wiley) ‘Active Galactic Nuclei’.

Teaching: Course organiser and originator of numerous undergraduate and masters astronomy modules at QMC and UCLAN; science for the arts courses (UCLAN); supervised 14 PhD and 2 MPhil students.

Research administration Member/chair of numerous SERC/PPARC/STFC committees/boards including: Chair Astronomy Grants Committee; Chair UKIRT Steering Committee and Time Allocation Committees; member JCMT Board and TAG Chair; ESO Chair of ALMA International Annual Review Panel; member of ASTRONET Roadmapping Panel; Coordinator for the ASTRONET Roadmapping Update and editor of the Science Vision Update and Infrastructure Roadmap Updates; member UK MICE Oversight Committee; member MICE International Project Board; Chair ESO PRIMA Lessons Learned Panel; member UK SKA Programme Board; Chair STFC Review of UK Radio Astronomy.

Outreach: Chair of the IAU Working Group on ‘Communicating Astronomy with the Public’; President of IAU Commission 55 (CAP) from 2005 - 2008"; member IAU International Working Group for the International Year of Astronomy 2009; UK SPOC and lead for IYA2009; IAU OAD Chair Task Force 3 – Communicating Astronomy with the Public: 2012-2015; IAU Commission 55: Chair and organiser CAP Conference Series 2007-13; Portfolio of talks to the public on themes of astronomy.

Other: Council Member of the Royal Astronomical Society 2005 - 2008; Vice President of the Royal Scottish Society for the Arts 2008 – 2011; President of the Royal Scottish Society for the Arts: 2011-2014; Vice-President of the Society for Popular Astronomy: 2013-2014; President of the Society for Popular Astronomy 2014-2016; IAU Assistant General Secretary 2018-21.

Awards: Society for Popular Astronomy (2010) – special award for services to IYA2009; Royal Astronomical Society Group Achievement Awards for Outstanding Achievements by Large Consortia – (2009) for the Submillimetre Common-User Bolometer Array (SCUBA), (2012) UKIDSS Consortium.