

# Course Registration 2012-13 FAQ

## Mathematics Department

**Disclaimer:** This document<sup>1</sup> is intended to help you as you decide which courses to register for in the Maths Department. If there is a conflict between this document and college regulations, the college regulations should be followed. The options described are those we anticipate offering in 2012-13, subject to the approval the college's validation process.

### **When are the deadlines? How do I register for courses?**

We ask you to preregister for next year's courses by 17 February 2012. You do this by picking up a form at the Course Fair (or the box outside the Department Office), filling it in and getting your adviser to approve your choices. Read the rest of this FAQ for information on how to make your choices. You finish the process by handing the form in to the Departmental Office. Preregistration is to help us to reduce the number of clashes between courses, and to make sure we can reserve lecture rooms of the right size.

Your registrations for each term's courses can't be changed after 12.00 (mid-day) on Friday in Teaching Week 2 (12th October 2012 for Term 1 courses and 25th January 2013 for Term 2 courses). Before then, you are welcome to sample the courses we offer. To change your registrations before these deadlines, ask your Personal Adviser to email the Departmental Office (Jenny Lee or Valerie Nicol) once they are happy with your changes.

### **Who do I see if I have questions?**

Talk to your Personal Adviser for any academic questions (and to get your course choices approved), or our Senior Faculty Administrator for any other questions you have. If you've forgotten who your Personal Adviser is, see the list that's available on the Student area of the department's website.

### **How many courses do I need to take?**

You need to take a total of 4 Units each year. Most Maths courses are worth 0.5 Unit. (But other departments often have 1 Unit courses.)

### **And how many of these should be Maths courses?**

This depends on your degree programme: see the table below.

### **Are there any courses I must take?**

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Yes. Which courses depends on your degree programme; see the tables below. In the Maths Department, there is no requirement to pass a specific course (courses you must take but are not required to pass as known as *Core* in the College regulations). Some courses in other departments are *Core Pass Required* or *Compulsory*, which means they must be passed: see the college regulations for details.

### Where can I find details of the courses on offer?

Details are on the Maths Department's website (click on 'Students'). There you will find the syllabus, the form of the exam, the term the course will run, prerequisites for the course and the name of course lecturer.

## Three Steps to Choosing your Maths Courses

### Step 1: How many Maths courses do I need?

See the table below for the number of units in Maths you need each year. (Most Maths courses are 0.5 units.) For the 4th year of MSci programmes, see later in this document.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<b>Maths</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Maths w Stats</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Maths w XXX (not Stats)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Econ &amp; Maths</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Maths</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Maths &amp; XXX XXX &amp; Maths (not Economics or Finance)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>XXX w Maths</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

## Step 2: Which courses must I take?

You must take the following Maths courses:

### Mathematics BSc/MSci

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	MT1100, 1710, 1810, 1940	MT2800, 2940	
Term 2	MT1210, 1300, 1720, 1820	MT2900	

### Mathematics with Statistics

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	MT1100, 1710, 1810, 1940	MT2300, 2800	MT3340
Term 2	MT1210, 1300, 1720, 1820	MT2320, 2900	MT3320, MT3360

### Mathematics with Management

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	MT1710, 1810, 1940	MT2300, 2800	
Term 2	MT1300, 1720, 1820	MT2900	

### Mathematics with XXX (not Management)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	MT1710, 1810, 1940	MT2800	
Term 2	MT1720, 1820	MT2900	

**Computer Science and Mathematics**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	MT1710, 1810	MT2800	
Term 2	MT1720, 1820	MT2630	

**Economics and Mathematics**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	MT1710, 1810	MT2300	
Term 2	MT1300, 1720, 1820	MT2630	

**Finance and Mathematics**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	MT1710, 1810	MT2300	MT3470
Term 2	MT1300, 1720, 1820	MT2630	MT4470

**Mathematics and Management**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	MT1710, 1810	MT2800	
Term 2	MT1720, 1820	MT1300	

**Mathematics and Physics BSc/MSci**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	MT1710, 1810	MT2800	
Term 2	MT1720, 1820	MT2900	

### Mathematics and Music

### Mathematics and Psychology

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	MT1710, 1810	MT2800	
Term 2	MT1720, 1820		

### Mathematics minor degree programmes

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 or Year 4
Term 1	MT1810		
Term 2	MT1820		

## Step 3: Choosing optional courses

If you need more Maths courses, choose from the selection from your year listed on the Maths Department's website. You need to discuss your course choices with your Personal Adviser (who must approve them). Things to think about when deciding on your options:

- Ideally, you want an even split between terms (2 Units per term).
- Make sure you have the prerequisites for the course.
- Make sure you are taking the prerequisite courses for the courses you want in future years.
- Some courses alternate (so are only given every other year). Don't miss an alternating course you want to take! Currently, the alternating pairs are: MT2860/2880, MT3450/4200 and MT4130/4140.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I take an uneven split of courses between terms?

Not in your first year. In later years, 2.5 Units in Term 1 and 1.5 Units in Term 2 is possible (as you can catch up over your second term). A split that is more extreme, or taking 1.5 units in the first term and 2.5 units in the second, is not recommended.

### **Can I take courses from other years?**

This depends on your year and your degree programme. You can't do this in your first year. If you are in your **2nd year** and your degree programme is XXX with Maths, you can take 1st year courses (but you can't take MT1100). If you are a 2nd year Maths and Management student, you can (indeed you must) take MT1300. You can sometimes take MT1940 in your second year (for example, if you've transferred late into a Maths or a Maths major programme). If you have not had the opportunity to take MT1300 in your first year, it is possible that you will be allowed to take MT1300 in your second year: talk to your Personal Adviser. If you are a **3rd year** student, you can take up to 0.5 units from the 2nd year; you can also choose any number of 4th year courses. MT2860 and MT2880 count as a third year course if you take them in your third year. If you are a **4th year** MSci student, please see the end of this document.

### **Are there other restrictions on which courses I can take?**

You normally need to have taken the prerequisites for a given course. Ask your Personal Adviser if you want to take a course without having the prerequisites.

If your programme involves another department, taking a Maths degree may also restrict your options there. In particular, you can't take courses with a mathematical content which are primarily intended for non-mathematicians: for example EC1102, GL1700, MN1025, PH1110 and PH1120.

### **What about courses from departments outside my programme?**

We would normally only approve this if you need specific courses for professional qualifications. We might allow you to take the course as an *Elective*. (An Elective course appears on your final degree transcript, but doesn't count towards your degree in any way.) You will need approval of the Academic Coordinator, as well as your Personal Adviser.

### **Can I resit or repeat one course I took last year?**

If you're resitting or repeating the year, see the next question.

If you've already passed the course, it is impossible to repeat or resit (as college regulations forbid this). Also, it is not possible to resit MT2800 if you have failed the group project.

Repeating a single course (attending lectures, doing coursework, sitting the exam) is almost never a good idea. The main reason is that the mark used to calculate your degree classification will almost certainly go down if you do this. This is because the year in which you first take the course is what counts when your overall mark for the purposes of degree classification is calculated, and because you can only register to take 4 units each year: so you would be replacing a higher weighted course with

a lower one. It's also more difficult to pass the year, as the repeat course would not count towards the 3 units you need to progress/graduate. You need the permission of the Academic Coordinator as well as your Personal Adviser before you can repeat a course.

Even if college regulations allow you to resit a single course, you should be very cautious about doing this. The extra work you need to do to revise this course during your exams will mean your marks on this year's (highly weighted) courses will suffer, and a resit course is capped at the pass mark of 40; so in most cases your overall mark for degree classification will not go up much, and could well go down. We normally only suggest you resit a course in special circumstances, for example if you need the course for professional accreditation reasons. Talk to your Personal Adviser for advice.

### **I'm repeating/resitting the year. What options do I have?**

Your Personal Adviser and the Academic Coordinator can advise you in your situation. Here's a summary of the options we usually offer.

If you are resitting the year (so you are taking the summer exams only), you don't have options: you just resit the courses you failed last year.

If you are repeating the year, and you were not given the option of resitting the year, you just repeat the courses you failed last year. If one of the courses is not running this year (for example, because it's an alternating course), you have the option of resitting the course (if this is possible for you under the regulations) or taking another course, normally the course's alternating twin. If you are given permission to take a new course, it counts as a second attempt for the purposes of progression and degree classification.

If you are repeating the year, but you were given the option of resitting, there are more options. Firstly, you can decide to resit rather than repeat some courses. This sometimes makes sense if you want to get a full-time job for one term, or you want to avoid full fees for a term: be aware that you don't get the help that going to lectures and doing coursework provides, so your mark for the course is likely to suffer. Secondly, we might allow you to replace some of the non-Core courses with others we offer. As above, any new course counts as a second attempt for the purposes of progression and degree classification.

### **I'm an MSci student. What extra information do I need to know?**

There's nothing extra you need to know about first and second year courses.

For your **third year**, you need to be careful to choose your courses with your fourth year in mind:

- Some courses alternate (so are only given every other year): don't miss one of them!
- If you are a third year student, you can take 0.5 units from the second year. But you can't take second year courses in your fourth year. MT2860 and MT2880 count as a third year courses in this context.
- Avoid taking MT3450, MT3610, MT3620, if you want to take MT4450, MT4610, or MT4620 in your fourth year (see below).

For your **fourth year**, you must take a one unit project (MT4000 if you are a Maths MSci student; either MT4000 or PH4100 if you are a Maths & Physics MSci student). You take a total of 4 units in Maths if you are on the Maths MSci, and a total of 2 units in Maths if you are on the Maths & Physics MSci.

You can take up to 1 unit of third year courses in your fourth year. Some courses exist in both third and fourth year versions. In your fourth year, you can only take the fourth year version of these courses; you can't take the fourth year version if you've already taken the third year version. (Currently this applies to MT3450/4450, MT4610/3610 and MT4620/3620.)