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Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

What are your entry requirements?

Our current entry requirements can be found on our website:
www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/ugadmission

What is the difference between BSc Mathematics and MMath Mathematics?

The MMath and the BSc are both undergraduate degrees and both of them lead to the award of a single qualification. The MMath is a four year programme, while the BSc is a three year programme; this means that on the MMath you can study selected areas of mathematics to a higher level. The MMath is particularly appropriate for people who want to continue their studies into postgraduate research in mathematics, or for those who want to work as professional mathematicians in industry. Undergraduates do not need to make a final decision about whether to follow the BSc or the MMath until the end of the second year - the courses are identical up to that point. (In fact, you have to be doing sufficiently well in your exams at the end of the second year to be allowed to take the MMath.) By that stage, most students know enough about their future plans, and about the course, to be able to decide which is the best for them.

What A-levels do you not accept?

The only A-level we currently do not accept is General Studies.
For Overseas applicants we do accept A-level Chinese.

Do you accept applications from students who have done or are doing resits?

We are usually happy to accept resits in most instances.

How do I apply?

All applications to our courses must be made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). General information about applications can be obtained from the UCAS web site:

www.ucas.ac.uk/students/apply

or by telephone: +44 (0)870 1122211.

What English Language Qualifications do you accept?

The minimum acceptable level for admission is:

GCSE English Language (grade C or above)

International English Language Testing (IELTS)

For single honours courses we ask for 6.0 overall

with at least 6.0 in Writing and at least 5.0 in the other components.

For joint honours courses we ask for 6.5 overall

with at least 6.0 in Writing and at least 5.5 in the other components.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

For single honours courses we ask for a minimum score of 550, computer based TOEFL 210, internet based TOEFL 80 (with at least 20 in each component)

For joint honours courses we ask for a minimum score of 575, computer based TOEFL 230, internet based TOEFL 90 (with at least 22 in each component).

Do you offer students who do not have English as their first language support in improving their English?

The University Language Centre offers both pre-sessional summer tuition and in-sessional term time tuition. But most undergraduates who undertake in-sessional tuition do so within the School. We have a special course called 'English for Mathematicians' for Year One students who want to improve their English. The main focus of the course is English Language instruction but other aspects of life in Britain are also discussed.

What happens after I submit my UCAS form?

If you are living or studying in the U.K. we will write to you with an invitation to one of our Visiting Days. These take place on either a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon between November and mid March.

What happens at a Visiting Day?

A typical visiting day schedule would be:

12.15-12.45 Registration

12.30-1.00 Buffet Lunch

1.00-2.00 Presentation by an Admissions Tutor and a Mathematics-related talk

2.00-4.00 An interview with a member of our academic staff, a tour of the University campus and an opportunity to tackle some mathematical puzzles.

4.00-4.20 Tea and Coffee

What do I need to wear and do I need to bring anything with me to a Visiting Day?

You need to wear whatever you feel comfortable in, some wear jeans and others wear a suit. You just need to bring yourself.

Are parents welcome at Visiting Days?

We welcome parents to our visiting days and in fact many parents welcome the opportunity to come along and visit the School. We have a separate programme for them, including a visit to one of our Halls of Residence and a Question & Answer Session with one of our academic members of staff.

How long does it take after a Visiting Day before I get an offer?

We aim to write to you within two or three working days after you have attended a visit day. Non standard or unusual qualifications or other issues may delay this process slightly on occasions.

What if I want to defer my entry?

This is normally a very easy matter to arrange. You simply have to send us a request in writing (an email will suffice) and we will take care of the rest. We would encourage you to keep up your study of mathematics and keep in touch with us.

What if I want to change my programme of study?

This is very easy to do providing the subjects you are studying are appropriate for the course you wish to transfer onto. You simply need to send us a written request (an email will suffice). In many cases you can apply to change programme on Registration Day with the School.

What about fees?

These are dealt with by the University centrally and full details of the current fees charged at Manchester can be found at:
www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees.

What Scholarships are available and how do I apply?

Full details of scholarships can be found in our prospectus or at:
www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/ugadmission.

There is no application process for our scholarships they are automatically allocated by the School.

How does University differ from School/College?

The transition from school or college to university involves huge change and for the majority of students that transition is generally straight-forward but some students do find the transition difficult. The majority of students leave home, which is a huge life-style change and simultaneously have to manage the demands of university study, possibly some part-time work and social life in a new environment, along with developing new friendships and a new found freedom. A small number of students find it difficult to adapt to their new learning environment and to realising that the university learning experience is different to A-level and GCSE study. University students need to become independent learners, able to motivate and organise themselves and make decisions about their own learning.

For more information about the student experience and how you are expected to learn, please visit www.sos.eps.manchester.ac.uk/math/index.html.

What is a typical week of study for Mathematics students?

The normal load is twelve lectures a week and six feedback/support classes although this can vary depending on the precise choice of lecture courses taken.

What is the difference between lectures and support/feedback classes?

A lecture is when the lecturer responsible for teaching the course presents the course material. Some lecturers provide supplementary notes on the web but others prefer not to do this. For Mathematics lecture courses, lecturers normally provide regular problem sets.

The support/feedback classes provide opportunities for students to be given assistance with these problems, to ask questions about the course material and to let the lecturer know of any difficulties about the course. The precise arrangements vary depending on the lecturer. In your first year two of these classes take the form of supervision groups of about ten students but mostly the support classes are a bit larger.

Will all my teaching be held in the Alan Turing Building?

In your first year of study many of your lectures will take place in the large lecture theatres in nearby buildings. Support/feedback classes are usually held in smaller rooms and we try to accommodate these in the Alan Turing Building but sometimes these will also be held in nearby buildings.

What kind of study abroad opportunities do you offer?

You could go abroad either in the second year of a three year programme or in the second or third year of a four year programme. We have two types of exchange on offer:

The Erasmus Exchange Programme

- To European universities
- Destinations offered will depend on your subject area and language ability.
- You will generally need an A-level or equivalent in a relevant foreign language but some partners, especially in The Netherlands and Scandinavia, teach in English.
- Organised by the Erasmus Coordinator in the School of Mathematics.

For a list of partner universities, visit: www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/studyabroad.

The World Exchange Programme

- To universities in the USA, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Latin America and New Zealand.
- Destinations offered will depend on which partner institutions teach Mathematics.
- Most universities teach in English but you'll need to speak Spanish or Portuguese to go to Latin America and Korean to go to Seoul.
- Organised by the Study Abroad Unit.

For a list of partner universities, visit: www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/studyabroad.

What careers opportunities are available for Mathematics graduates?

Careers information can be found at:

www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/ugadmission/careers.