

# University of Manchester School of Mathematics

## Undergraduate Facilities in the Alan Turing Building

Now that we have all moved into our new home it may be helpful to describe the facilities in the Alan Turing Building and how we envisage the building being used.

No doubt our use of the building will evolve in the coming weeks as we learn together how to use it most effectively. The meetings of the Staff-Student Liaison Committee will provide an opportunity to consider any matters of concern to students. In the meantime students should contact me if there are major problems about the use of the building.

### The Alan Turing Building

The building consists of three ‘fingers’. Two of these fingers are joined together by several bridges and between them is an atrium. Originally an ‘atrium’ was the large central hall of a Roman house and several of the University’s recent buildings include this sort of large open space rising the height of the building. The School of Mathematics occupies the bottom three floors of this part of the building and the atrium provides a common space for all of us as we move around the School, walking on the floor of the atrium, across bridges through the atrium space and along walkways along the sides of the atrium. A single bridge at third floor level leads to the third finger and this bridge crosses Wilton Street, which follows the line of an old street from when this was a residential area; this street is being reopened as a pedestrian way as part of this project. When the adjacent building work is complete this street will lead through from Upper Brook Street to Oxford Road. The building incorporates semi-transparent photovoltaic panels cells for electricity generation above Wilton Street and the atrium, the largest array of this type in the country.

### Entering and leaving the building

The only way into and out of the building is by the entrance at the Upper Brook Street end of Wilton Street. All other doors leading out of the building, including the doors at the ends of the atrium, are fire doors and should only be used in case of emergency. The building is normally open on weekdays between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Students should note in particular that it is not possible to leave the building without assistance after 5.30 p.m. At present the building can only be approached from Upper Brook Street and we are aware that this is rather inconvenient. We have been informed that the pedestrian route leading along Wilton Street and then round to the right towards the Lamb Building and so to the Precinct Centre and the Business School will be open very soon, and a route through to Brunswick Street will be open soon after that. By early next year the full length of Wilton Street leading through to Oxford Road and the University central buildings should be open.

The building was planned so that all of the facilities for undergraduates are on the ground floor. Most of the areas which are specifically for School of Mathematics use are at the west end of the atrium (the far end when you enter the building). Care is required when walking in the atrium particularly in wet weather since the floor can be very slippery. The architects assure us that this problem is only short-term as regular cleaning will lead to ‘micro scratches’ which will make the floor safer.

## **The Undergraduate Common Room**

At the far end of the atrium beyond the yellow barrier is the Undergraduate Common Room. In planning the building we saw it as important to have an area where undergraduates in the School can relax and spend social time together.

### **G.211 The Undergraduate Work Room**

Off to the left through the Undergraduate Common Room is the Undergraduate Work Room. Students often like to work together and we see this as a natural place where students can gather to do mathematics. Notice boards providing course information will be positioned in the room and there will also be pigeonholes where messages and mail for undergraduate will be placed. You should check these pigeonholes regularly in case there is something for you. In this room there are two areas where groups can work round a blackboard which will be partitioned off most of the time and these will be used for some first year supervisions. When not booked for supervisions they can be used as additional work space. Careers information will be placed in this room (or possibly in the Undergraduate Common Room).

### **G.101 The Undergraduate Quiet Study Room**

Off to the right through the Common Room is the Undergraduate Quiet Study Room. This is intended as a quiet area where students who wish to work on their own can do so without interruption. In this room there is a collection of undergraduate text books which are available for reference. These are books which were collected together during the move over the summer. It may be possible to improve this collection if it is well used. Students are asked not to remove the books from the room.

### **G.105 The Undergraduate Computer Cluster**

This cluster is on the right of the atrium just before the Undergraduate Common Room and is available for use at any time when the building is open so long as it is not in use by a class. The far end can be partitioned off for use by small classes and this area is used for some postgraduate teaching.

### **G.204 The Teaching and Learning Office**

After the School website, this is the main source of information about undergraduate programmes in the School for current students. The entrance to this office is off the atrium immediately to the left on entering the atrium. The staff in this office will be able to answer many of the questions which students have particularly about registration and examinations. Occasionally students have problems with *Campus Solutions*, the online Student System, and in this case they should first seek advice from Manchester Computing or the University Student Services Centre unless the problem relates specifically to a School of Mathematics matter. However, for matter relating to the School, advice can be sought from the School Teaching and Learning Office. Some coursework will be handed in at this office and Self-Certification Forms relating to mitigating circumstances should be handed in there.

## **G.202 The Admissions Office**

The entrance to this office is off the entrance foyer to the left on entering the building. Present students are unlikely to need to go this office except when first arriving in the School and students should be careful to go the correct counter in G.204 round the corner in the atrium for the Teaching and Learning Office.

## **G.116 The MATHSOC Office**

This office has a hatch straight across the atrium on entering the building. This counter will be used by MATHSOC from time to time for the distribution of information about events and sometimes for booking for these events.

## **The Atrium Café *Pi in the Sky***

The remainder of the atrium is not part of the School but houses a café managed by the University catering department. The café was due to open before the beginning of term but this was delayed because of problems in completing the building. No doubt the University catering department would prefer students not to use this area as a general study area when the café is open so that the tables and chairs in this part of the atrium are available for people who are using the café.

## **Teaching rooms**

The ground floor also contains a number of teaching rooms. The medium sized rooms which lead directly off the atrium are all named after eminent previous members of the precursors of the School of Mathematics: James Lighthill (G.205), Louis Mordell (G.209), Max Newman (G.107) and Lewis Fry Richardson (G.207). We plan to mount a display about each of these mathematicians near the entrance of the room named after them. A display about Alan Turing will also be prepared for the entrance foyer. Care is required when standing near to the doors to the Lighthill and the Richardson Teaching Rooms which open outwards; at the moment there are no windows in these doors and they may be opened quickly without warning. The small teaching rooms, G.108, G.109, G.110, G.113 and G.114, are reached from the corridor across the atrium from the entrance foyer. There are no large teaching rooms in the building and so many lectures and other classes particularly for first and second year students will take place in other buildings.

The remainder of the School of Mathematics is housed on the first and second floors of the building around the atrium. The upper floors are reached by stairs in the south east corner of the building (to the right on entering the building) and by stairs in the opposite corner of the building (down the corridor by the Quiet Study Room off the Undergraduate Common Room). There are also lifts in the entrance foyer. Toilets can be found on each floor next to the stairs, so on the ground floor these are off the foyer to the right on entering the building and off the corridor leading from the Undergraduate Common Room by the Quiet Study Room.

## **Staff offices**

Rooms are numbered so that the first digit indicates the floor and the second digit indicates the side of the atrium (1 for the north, away from Wilton Street, and 2 the south, next to Wilton Street). On the north side of the atrium the numbers run from west to east and on the south side of the atrium from east to west. Offices for academic staff and postgraduate students are on the north side of the atrium on first floor and both sides of the atrium on the second floor.

## **Head of School and Head of School Administration**

The Head of School and the Head of School Administration have their offices at the southeast corner of the building on the first floor, up the stairs on entering the building. Their personal assistant who should be approached for an appointment if you wish to see either of them may be found in room 1.205. The Horace Lamb Room (1.204) is next to this office and will be used for some committee meetings.

## **The Manchester Institute of Mathematical Sciences (MIMS)**

This research arm of the School is housed on the Wilton Street side of the atrium on the first floor and includes the Research Office (1.209), the Brian Hartley Room (1.211) housing the research library and accommodation for visitors, the Frank Adams Seminar Room (1.212) and the Sydney Goldstein Grid Access Room (1.223). Undergraduate students will not normally use these facilities and are not expected to use the walkway on the Wilton Street side of the atrium at first floor level. First floor staff offices should be reached by going up the stairs from the entrance foyer and crossing the bridge or going up the stairs from the Undergraduate Common Room.

## **The Atrium Bridge**

The Atrium Bridge, above the Undergraduate Common Room, is the common room for staff and graduate students. On occasions academic staff may invite a student there to discuss some matter but this area is not normally open to undergraduates.

## **The rest of the building**

The Alan Turing Building does not only house the School of Mathematics. The Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics which is part of the School of Physics and Astronomy occupies the top floor above the School of Mathematics. The University Photon Science Institute, where academic staff from several academic schools work, is housed in the section of the building across Wilton Street.

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