

## Mathematics Foundation Year

### Undergraduate degree course/programme Mathematics Foundation Year G101:

One of the longest established of disciplines, and underpinning many others, mathematics is the language of science and engineering and an intellectual field in its own right. It speaks without barriers across time. It is a discipline that is forever opening up to us, revealing new and fascinating truths and ideas, and helping to expand upon our knowledge in all directions.

At the **School of Mathematics** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/mathematics/>) in Birmingham we are internationally renowned for our world-leading research and research-led teaching and are committed to providing a challenging, first rate, education to all of our students in a friendly and supportive environment. Consistently ranked amongst the top UK Mathematics centres, we excel at developing our students' thought processes, helping them to become more analytical and able to rapidly identify and solve problems.

A warm welcome is extended to you to come and join us, so that we can help you to expand upon your knowledge and understanding of the world through the exquisite language of mathematics.

**[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)**

#### Course fact file

UCAS code: G101

Duration: 1 year

Start date: September

#### Related courses

**[Maths undergraduate degree courses - School of Mathematics \(/schools/mathematics/undergraduate/index.aspx\)](/schools/mathematics/undergraduate/index.aspx)**

#### Contact

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**[School of Mathematics \(/schools/mathematics/index.aspx\)](/schools/mathematics/index.aspx)**

### Details

The Mathematics Foundation Year is a special one-year programme, open to both Home and EU applicants, that prepares students for mathematics study at degree level at the University of Birmingham. International students should see the Birmingham Foundation Academy, specific course details are located on the Engineering and Physical Sciences Pathway.

Successful completion of the Mathematics Foundation Year, which requires high marks in your mathematics modules, guarantees you a place on an Honours degree in Mathematics at Birmingham.

When you enrol on the Foundation Year, you become a full student of the University, with access to all the same facilities as other undergraduate students. The programme is taught over two semesters beginning at the end of September and ending in July the following year. It consists of modules of study totalling 120 credits taken with students on other foundation year programmes in, for example, Physics and Engineering. Two of these modules are special foundation-level mathematics modules. The rest are chosen from a list of foundation-level modules in other subjects, principally Engineering and Physics. The combination of modules is designed to provide you with the right skills, experience and knowledge for degree-level study.

On successful completion of the Foundation Year you are eligible to progress to one of the **[Maths undergraduate degree courses \(/schools/mathematics/undergraduate/index.aspx\)](/schools/mathematics/undergraduate/index.aspx)**.

#### Foundation Year Handbook

The EPS Foundation Year programmes, including the Mathematics Foundation Year, are currently under review for 2012 entry. All the progression routes onto first year courses will be maintained and the core content of modules offered will be similar, but the module structure may be different. For information about the current programme **[please see the course Handbook \(PDF 204 kb\) \(/Documents/college-eps/foundation/foundation-handbook.pdf\)](/Documents/college-eps/foundation/foundation-handbook.pdf)**.

**Generic skills-training**, focusing on transferable skills and employability, is embedded throughout the course from the outset, and will ensure that you are equipped with the ICT, presentation, team-working and problem-solving skills which will enhance your employability on graduation.

### Why study this course

The information below relates to our BSc/MSci courses:

Studying any mathematics course at Birmingham will expand your knowledge and understanding of the world, helping you to become a sought-after graduate wherever there is a call for logical thinking and statistical or strategic knowledge.

At Birmingham, we provide a first-rate education that involves a range of learning environments, developing many skills to prepare you for future employment or further study. The School of Mathematics was one of only two maths departments in the country to be awarded full marks in the last national Assessment of Quality in Education.

The Mathematics Learning Resource Centre here provides an excellent environment for undergraduates to work independently, in groups, or with help from postgraduate students.

From 2000-2011, the university housed the national headquarters of the **Maths, Stats & OR Network (MSOR)** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/mathematics/MSOR/index.aspx>), a subject centre of the Higher Education Academy. Between August 2009 and July 2012 we host a major national education programme that champions **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** (<http://www.hestem.ac.uk/>) teaching at universities throughout England and Wales.

## Fees and funding

Learn more about **fees and funding** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/feesandfinance/loans.aspx>)

## Entry requirements

**General Studies:** not accepted

The Foundation Year is for applicants who have a track record of academic excellence and who show mathematical potential but who do not have the appropriate subject knowledge to embark on our degree programmes straight away. Applicants typically have a non-traditional background, eg, mature students who took different subjects while at school who would like to change direction, or students who do not have a UK education. Typically, a student has the 'wrong subjects' but with excellent grades matching those for entry into our undergraduate programmes. Currently this is AAA or AAB

The offer for G101 Mathematics Foundation Year programme is by individual consideration – please contact us to discuss your particular situation.

Other qualifications are considered – learn more about **entry requirements** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements>)

### International students:

International students should see the Birmingham Foundation Academy, specific course details are located on the Engineering and Physical Sciences Pathway.

Depending on your chosen course of study, you may also be interested in the Birmingham Foundation Academy, a specially structured programme for international students whose qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to UK universities. Further details can be found on the **foundation academy web pages** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/Pathways/index.aspx>).

## How to apply

Apply through UCAS at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) (<http://www.ucas.com/>)

Learn more about **applying** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/apply>)

## Key Information Set (KIS)

Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full- or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students.

All KIS information has been published on the Unistats website and can also be accessed via the small advert, or 'widget', below. On the **Unistats website** (<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk>) you are able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses.

The development of Key Information Sets (KIS) formed part of HEFCE's work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. They give you access to reliable and comparable information in order to help you make informed decisions about what and where to study.

The KIS contains information which prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation.

## Related links

**[EPS Foundation Year Handbook \(pdf 303 KB\) \(/Documents/college-eps/foundation/foundation-handbook.pdf\)](#)**

**[Maths undergraduate degree courses - School of Mathematics \(/schools/mathematics/undergraduate/index.aspx\)](#)**

## Learning and teaching

The information below relates to our BSc/MSci courses:

### How will I be taught?

As a Birmingham student, you are joining the academic elite and have the privilege of learning from world-leading experts in the field of mathematics. Throughout your studies, you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner, thriving on challenge and opportunities to think for yourself. Less formal, more independent study is a vital part of becoming a successful mathematician. So we encourage students to work together and have several popular study areas in and around the School where you can work with friends or individually.

**Personal Tutor:** At the start of your degree, you will be assigned a Personal Tutor who will remain with you throughout your studies until graduation, to help you in three important areas: supporting your academic progress, developing transferable skills and dealing with any welfare issues. You will meet your personal tutor at least once a semester to review your academic progress and discuss how to develop your transferable skills. Your personal tutor will also be able to advise on particular areas where you need additional support.

### Delivery of the course

From the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself.

Mathematics programmes are modular and divided between two teaching terms. Examinations take place in the summer term of each year. Learning takes place in several forms and settings. Our formal teaching comprises:

**Lectures:** Delivered in a variety of styles by enthusiastic staff, lectures form the major source of information for most modules.

**Tutorials:** Every week in your first year and every two weeks in your second year, you have small group meetings with your tutor. Here you will get to solve mathematical problems and discuss material introduced in lectures.

**Examples classes:** These focus on working through mathematical problems issued by the lecturer. Through examples classes, you will be able to check your learning and reflect on particular examples with the aid of experienced mathematicians. Examples classes are usually run by a lecturer with the help of one or more graduate students.

**Supervisions:** For some modules, instead of examples classes, we run smaller supervisions of 10 to 15 students where one lecturer goes through students' solutions to problems with the group.

**Computer labs:** Some modules are supported by computer labs using computer algebra packages to solve problems, programming languages to model mathematical situations or computer assessment systems to test your learning.

**Web-based learning:** All of our modules are linked to iVLE - a virtual learning environment that gives you access to lecture notes, additional learning units, self-tests and supplementary interactive information to support your learning.

**Feedback:** You receive regular feedback in all of your modules through marked work, model answers, tutorials, examples classes and supervisions.

Less formal, more independent study is a vital part of becoming a mathematician. We encourage students to work together and have several popular study areas in and around the School where you can work with friends or individually. Initially, you may find these ways of working challenging but there is a comprehensive support system assisting and encouraging you to settle in. You will be allocated a personal tutor for the duration of your degree programme and welfare tutors will be available for pastoral issues.

## Assessment methods

The information below relates to our BSc/MSci courses:

Assessment varies across modules and can include:

- Examinations - usually taken at the end of the year in which the module is taught
- Coursework - this could be continuous or at the end of the module, and is assessed in a variety of ways.
- Class tests - some lecturers set regular class tests which could be written tests, group presentations or computer-based tests providing instant feedback.

Research projects are assessed by, for example, interim reports, a final written report and oral presentations.

During your first year the University will require you to undergo a formal **'transition' review** (<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/transitionreview/index.aspx>) to see how you are getting on and if there are particular areas where you need support. This is in addition to the personal tutor who is based in the School and can help with any academic issues you encounter. The University's Academic Skills Centre also offers you support with your learning. The Centre is a place where you can develop your mathematical, academic writing and general academic skills. It is the Centre's aim to help you to become a more effective and independent learner through the use of a range of high-quality and appropriate learning support services. These range from drop-in sessions with support with mathematics and statistics based problems provided by experienced mathematicians, to workshops on a range of topics including note taking, reading, writing and presentation skills.

At the beginning of each module, you will be given information on how and when you will be assessed for that particular programme of study. You will receive feedback on each assessment within four weeks, so that you can learn from, and build on, what you have done. You will be given feedback on any exams that you take; if you should fail an exam we will ensure that particularly detailed feedback is made available to enable you to learn for the future.

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## Employability

The information below relates to our BSc/MSci courses:

Feedback shows that 85% of our students go on to work or study on graduation. Of those in employment, 80%-90% gain graduate-level jobs and are earning salaries in the region of £20,000-£28,000 pa six months after graduation.

Adobe Flash Player or QuickTime is required for video playback. [Get the latest Flash Player](#) [Get the latest version of QuickTime](#)

Preparation for your career is one of the first things you should be considering when you start university. When you graduate from one of our mathematics programmes, you can expect to be able to pursue careers in any one of the major blue chip companies in sectors as diverse as finance and computing or in government, teaching or the NHS. Many of our students continue their studies to graduate level, taking masters programmes or PhDs. Wherever the application of logical thinking and statistical or strategic knowledge is called for, being one of our graduates will give you a head start.

Our degrees will help you to develop key skills such as analytic thinking, problem solving, independent research, report writing and the use of technical language. These skills are all highly sought after by employers.

You will have access to a wealth of professional careers advice, Our unique careers guidance service is tailored to your academic subject area, offering specialised expert advice and mentoring, as well as guidance to help you to secure exclusive work-experience opportunities and global internships, all of which will help you to stand out from the competition. And once you have a career in your sights, one-to-one support with CVs, interview practice and job applications will further help to give you the edge. In addition, our employer-endorsed, award-winning **Personal Skills Award (PSA)** (<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/psa/index.aspx>) recognises you extra-curricular activities, and provides an accredited employability programme designed to improve your career prospects.

You can also take advantage of:

- Frequent careers advice drop-in sessions in the School, so you can always get help and advice when you need it.
- An **annual Maths Careers Fair** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/mathematics/undergraduate/maths-careers-fair-2011.aspx>), where you can meet employers specifically interested in mathematics graduates.
- Regular Careers Skills Workshops run by employers or the College employability team to guide you through your career planning and give you an advantage in the application process for graduate positions and internships.
- A fortnightly careers e-newsletter, including vacancies suited to maths students, with application deadlines and a calendar of careers events likely to be of interest to you as a maths student.

Some of our industrial relationships include:

- Actica Consulting
- Apple
- BMI
- BMW
- Carillion
- Emerson Process Management
- General Electric
- Goodrich Actuation
- Masternaut
- Renishaw
- RM Education
- Rockpool Digital
- Sidessa
- Thermofisher Scientific

Your Birmingham degree is evidence of your ability to succeed in a demanding academic environment. Employers target Birmingham students for their drive, diversity, communication and problem-solving skills, their team-working abilities and cultural awareness, and our graduate employment statistics have continued to climb at a rate well above national trends. If you make the most of the wide range of services you will be able to develop your career from the moment you arrive.

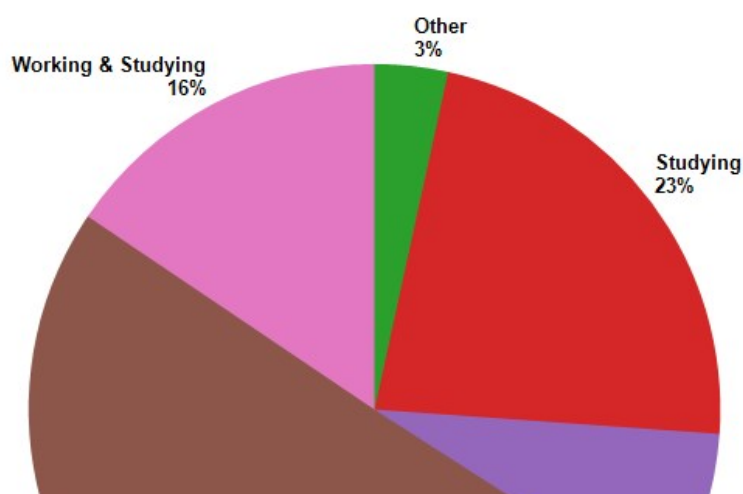
## University Careers Network

Preparation for your career should be one of the first things you think about as you start university. Whether you have a clear idea of where your future aspirations lie or want to consider the broad range of opportunities available once you have a Birmingham degree, our Careers Network can help you achieve your goal.

If you make the most of the **wide range of services** (<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/college/eps/index.aspx>) you will be able to develop your career from the moment you arrive.

## Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) 2011/12

The DLHE survey is conducted 6 months after graduation.



### Examples of occupations

- Actuarial Trainee
- Actuarial Consultant
- Actuary
- Analyst
- Associate Auditor
- Consultant
- Financial Analyst
- Management Accountant
- Secondary School Teacher
- Software Tester

### Further study-examples of courses

- ACA - Accountancy
- ACCA - Accountancy



- MSc Accounting and Finance
- MSc Actuarial Science
- MSc Computing Systems
- MSc Finance and Investment
- MSc Operational Research
- MSc Statistics
- PGCE Mathematics
- PhD Applied Mathematics

Visit the [Careers section of the University website](#)

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/index.aspx> for further information.

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UNISTATS.

