

# Mathematics Admissions Process

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Choosing Universities and Programmes

UCAS Application and Durham Maths Admissions

Other Durham Programmes

# Which University?

There are many Universities offering a variety of mathematical degrees. For most students, the choice involves features of the University as a whole as well as the specific department.

Some important factors are:

- ▶ **Quality** – Reputation, Recommendations, League Tables
- ▶ **Facilities** – Colleges/Halls of Residence, Sports and Clubs
- ▶ **Location** – Distance from Home, Big City?

# Finding Information

Recommendations from parents, friends, schools are important.  
There is lots of information available online:

- ▶ University and Department webpages, and Prospectus
- ▶ Student Forums
- ▶ UCAS information, UniStats, Newspaper League Tables

Don't rely only on above sources, visit the Universities and Departments.

University admissions is competitive, so aim high, but be realistic.

# Department Features

- ▶ **Programmes and Flexibility** – Similar opportunities within different programmes at different Universities
- ▶ **Teaching Methods** – Tutorials, projects

At Durham we offer:

- ▶ 3-year **BSc Mathematics**
- ▶ 4-year **BSc Mathematics (European Studies)**
- ▶ 4-year **MMath**

All programmes have opportunities to specialise in **pure, applied, statistics and probability**.

**Possible to switch** between these at any time **during first 2 years** – no difference in admissions process except A-level language requirement for European Studies.

# Essentials

- ▶ **Personal Statement** – We look for interest and motivation to study programme, and other interests. Also of interest to college.
- ▶ **Reference** – We expect very strong references. Quantitative evidence is most useful. E.g. “best in year”, “best in last 5 years”, “qualified for Olympiad”, “achieved 96% in AS-Further Maths which was mostly self-taught”
- ▶ **Achieved and Predicted Grades** – We normally expect predictions above our offer, don't focus too much on GCSE grades and will request UMS marks for all Maths modules

# Durham Admissions Process

- ▶ Applications forwarded to University by UCAS
- ▶ Applications sent to department
- ▶ **Department makes academic decisions** – an offer will be made or the application will be rejected on the basis of this decision
- ▶ **Offers made by colleges** – applicants can state a preference but colleges also have fixed quotas

# Durham Maths Admissions Process

- ▶ Forms assessed by admissions team – **academic staff**
- ▶ Further information may be requested from applicant – UMS marks, Further Maths opportunities
- ▶ Decision made – Offer, Reject, Grade and hold

# Competition and Further Maths Policy

Admission to Durham Maths programmes is very competitive. This year we could make around 400 offers for 129 places from over 1100 applicants – nearly all predicted to meet or exceed our standard offer. Our policy is to focus on mathematical achievement and ability.

For A-level applicants we require Further Maths:

- ▶ A-level Further Maths required if offered by school
- ▶ AS-level Further Maths required if A-level not available at school – via the Further Maths Support Programme if required

# Standard Offers

If we make an offer to an A-level applicant it would be:

- ▶ AA (Maths + Further Maths) + B (Anything except General Studies)
- ▶ A (Maths) + AB (Anything except General Studies) + a (AS-Further Maths)

We accept any equivalent qualifications and make comparable offers, e.g.

- ▶ International Baccalaureate 36 points including 6 for HL Maths
- ▶ Scottish Advanced Highers A (Maths) + AB

We have no preferences for other subjects, e.g. A-level History is as good as A-level Physics.

## Selection Method – UMS Marks

We have a fixed number of offers and cannot select only on Personal Statement, Reference and Predicted Grades. For A-level applicants **UMS Maths marks are very important** – we accept resits and judge on what is available at the time of application.

Important factors are:

- ▶ Average UMS mark
- ▶ Number of modules taken – typically 6, decisions based on 3 are more difficult
- ▶ Preference for Core and FP modules, and to a lesser extent Mechanics
- ▶ Level of support for Further Maths
- ▶ Exceptional Circumstances

## Selection Method

- ▶ Applicants must be predicted to meet our offer, and AAA is preferred to AAB. We do not have a strong preference for predictions above AAA as this is very dependent on opportunities available to applicants and does not necessarily indicate better preparation for our maths programmes.
- ▶ We do not require STEP or AEA, but we do believe that these are useful preparation for University level maths programmes.
- ▶ We do not make specific maths module grade requirements in our offers.
- ▶ We do not currently use A-level A\* grades, but may do so in future.

N.B. It is very unlikely that we can take any near-miss applicants – to some extent this is factored into our AAB offer.

## Other Durham Programmes

Other programmes at Durham include maths. The most popular is Natural Sciences which includes joint Honours programmes such as Maths + Physics. Programmes where students can study half maths are:

- ▶ **Natural Sciences** – 3-year BSc or 4-year MSci
- ▶ **Combined Honours** in Arts or Social Sciences
- ▶ BA Education with Mathematics

Admissions to these programmes are not dealt with by the Maths Department. There is some opportunity for students to switch between programmes during or at the end of year 1.

Applicants can apply to these programmes instead of or in addition to a maths programme. **Typical offer is AAA** for A-levels, will not require but may prefer A-level Further Maths, and may require AS-level Further Maths. Decision is unlikely to be so dependent on maths UMS marks and will obviously be dependent on at least one other subject.