UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH
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Mathematics (BA) (three-year course); (MMath) (four-year course) Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026

Entry requirements

Visit Admission requirements for 2026 entry to view a summary table of each undergraduate course's entry requirements.

If English is not your first language you may also need to meet our English language requirements.

About the course

Mathematicians have always been fascinated by numbers. One of the most famous problems is Fermat's Last Theorem:

if $n \geq 3$, the equation $x^n+y^n=z^n$ has no solutions with x, y, z all nonzero integers.

An older problem is to show that one cannot construct a line of length $\sqrt[3]{2}$ with ruler and compass, starting with a unit length.

Often the solution to a problem will require you to think outside its original framing. This is true here, and while you will see the second problem solved in your course, the first is far too deep and was famously solved by Andrew Wiles.

In applied mathematics we use mathematics to explain phenomena that occur in the real world. You can learn how a leopard gets its spots, explore quantum theory and relativity, or study the mathematics of stock markets.

We will encourage you to ask questions and find solutions for yourself. We will begin by teaching you careful definitions so that you can construct theorems and proofs.

Above all, mathematics is a logical subject, and you will need to think mathematically, arguing clearly and concisely as you solve problems. For some of you, this way of thinking or solving problems will be your goal. Others will want to see what else can be discovered. Either way, it is a subject to be enjoyed.

There are two Mathematics degrees, the three-year BA and the four-year MMath. Decisions regarding continuation to the fourth year do not have to be made until the third year.

The first year consists of core courses in pure and applied mathematics (including statistics).

Options start in the second year, with the third and fourth years offering a large variety of courses, including options from outside mathematics.

A typical week (Years 1 and 2)

- Around ten lectures and two-three tutorials or classes a week

A typical week (Years 3 and 4)

- Six-ten lectures and two-four classes each week, depending on options taken
- Compulsory dissertation in the fourth year

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. There would usually be around 8-12 students though classes for some of the more popular papers may be larger.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are studying at doctoral level.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our Academic Year page.

Significant self-study is expected of all students – for further details see workload and independent study information. Undergraduate courses at Oxford are full-time during term time. Students typically spend approximately 40 hours per week on academic work.

Course structure

YEAR 1	
COURSES Compulsory Year 1 includes: • Algebra • Analysis • Probability and statistics • Geometry • Dynamics • Multivariable calculus	**ASSESSMENT** First University examinations: five compulsory papers; Computational mathematics projects

YEAR 2	
COURSES Compulsory core: • Algebra • Complex analysis • Metric spaces • Differential equations Selection from topics including: Algebra; Number theory; Analysis; Applied	**ASSESSMENT** Final University examinations, Part A: three core papers and six or seven optional papers

YEAR 2	
analysis; Geometry; Topology; Fluid dynamics; Probability; Statistics; Numerical analysis; Graph theory; Quantum theory	

YEARS 3 and 4	
COURSES • Large variety, ranging across: Algebra; Applied and numerical analysis; Algebraic and differential geometry; Algebraic and analytic topology; Logic and set theory; Number theory; Applied probability; Statistics; Theoretical and statistical mechanics; Mathematical physics; Mathematical biology; Mathematical geoscience; Networks; Combinatorics; Information theory; Deep learning; Mathematical philosophy; Computer Science options; History of mathematics • A dissertation in Year 4 is compulsory The options listed above are illustrative and may change. A full list of current options is available on the Mathematics website. (Not all options may be available every year – these are subject to change, as explained in the Terms & Conditions and for reasons of staff availability and student demand. The department may add extra options.)	**ASSESSMENT** Year 3: Final University examinations, Part B: eight papers or equivalent Year 4: Final University examinations, Part C: eight, nine or ten papers or equivalent, including a dissertation.

MMathPhys Year 4

The Physics and Mathematics Departments jointly offer an integrated master's level course in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics.

Mathematics students are able to apply for transfer to a fourth year studying entirely mathematical and theoretical physics, completing their degree with an MMathPhys.

The course offers research-level training in: Particle physics, Condensed matter physics, Astrophysics, Plasma physics and Continuous media.

Most Oxford courses are assessed by examinations. These are typically at the end of the first and last years but you may have assessments at other times and some courses have exams in the second year also. First year examinations are often called Prelims or Moderations, and you need to pass

these exams to progress to the second year. You must pass your final year exams, or 'finals', to pass your degree. For more information on assessment for your course, please see the Course Structure.

Finals also determine the classification of your degree. For some courses you may also be assessed on your practical work, or you may be required to submit a dissertation. Please check the assessment details for your course.

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions and information about potential course changes.

You are also referred to the Student Handbook (which is updated every September).

Fees

These annual fees in 2026/27 are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2026. Information about how much fees and other costs usually increase each year is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

For details of annual increases, please see our guidance on likely increases to fees and charges.

Fee status	Annual Course fees in 2026/27
Home	£9,790
Overseas	£47,570

In the 2027-28 academic year course fees for Home fee status students will rise to £10,050 (in line with the government fee cap.)

Further details about fee status eligibility can be found on the fee status webpage.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2026 are estimated to be between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month you are in Oxford. Students at Oxford can benefit from our world class resources and college provision, which may help to keep costs down. Entitlement to certain types of support may depend on your personal financial circumstances.

Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our living costs webpage.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£545	£2,835	£4,905
Accommodation (including utilities)	£825	£990	£7,425	£8,910
Personal items	£160	£310	£1,440	£2,790

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
Social activities	£50	£130	£450	£1,170
Study costs	£35	£90	£315	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
Total	**£1,405**	**£2,105**	**£12,645**	**£18,945**

In order to provide these estimated likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University in collaboration with the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey in May 2025 to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

The current economic climate and periods of high national inflation in recent years make it harder to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2026-27, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Mathematics

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.

Regulation - The University of Oxford is regulated by the Office for Students and subscribes to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education student complaints scheme.