Problem Solving Matters 2017

Developing the problem solving skills necessary for the Mathematics Admission Test and the Test of Mathematics for University Admission

This course is for year 12 students from state-funded schools, academies and colleges who are interested in applying for places at Oxford University, Imperial College, Durham University and Warwick University to study Mathematics.

Students applying for places to study Mathematics or Computer Science courses (including joint honours) at Oxford University and any Mathematics undergraduate course at Imperial College, London will be required to sit the Mathematics Admission Test (MAT) as one part of the admissions process. Students applying for Mathematics at Durham University or Warwick University may be required to sit the MAT or TMUA (Test of Mathematics for University Admission) examination.

This course is designed to prepare students for the way they will have to think to achieve success in the MAT, TMUA and other problem-solving mathematics examinations by developing their mathematical thinking and problem solving skills.

The course consists of three face to face study days (at one of the University of Oxford, Imperial College London, Durham University and Warwick University), three summer assignments, and five online follow-up sessions.

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Three face to face study days

At Oxford University these will take place on
Saturday 24th June 2017, Saturday 8th July 2017 and Saturday 8th October 2017

At Imperial College, London these will take place on
Saturday 24th June 2017, Saturday 8th July 2017 and Saturday 23rd September 2017.

At Warwick University
Saturday 17th June 2017, Saturday 8th July 2017 and Saturday 16th September 2017

At Durham University
Dates to be confirmed. We are currently in negotiation with Durham University and will confirm dates when we are sure they are able to host the study days. Students who indicate an interest in Durham as their preferred venue may be offered a place at one of the other venues if Durham are unable to host.
The sessions will last from 9.30 am (for a 10.00 am start) until approximately 4.15 pm and will focus on specific problem solving skills that students will need to develop. Each day will feature workshops where students will be supported by mentors from the hosting university.

Applicants may be offered a place at an alternative venue if their first choice of venue reaches capacity.

**Three summer assignments**

These will consist of small investigations to develop thinking skills and short exercises to develop technique. The assignments will be marked by a student’s mentor and feedback provided.

**Five online follow-up sessions**

These are designed to consolidate the problem solving skills the students have developed and will take place during weekday evenings in the autumn term and run up to the MAT examination itself.

**Course fees**

The cost of the course is £60.

Students will be expected to make their own travel arrangements to get to the venue.

If you will have trouble meeting the cost of the course, please indicate this in the appropriate place on your application form. We regret that this year we will be unable to provide transport costs.

**To book a place**

Booking is done using the online application form found at:

[www.maths.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate-study/outreach/problem-solving-matters](http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate-study/outreach/problem-solving-matters)

Students who apply using this form will be receive confirmation of their application towards the end of April 2017 (later applications will be confirmed as they arrive). Successful applicants will be informed if they have gained a place by the start of June 2017.

The application process will close on Wednesday 31st May 2017. We regret that we will be unable to process any applications received after this time.

“I just want to say thank you so much for this course!! It seems such incredible value, I can't believe all the support we get from it! I would have been a bit stuck without it as support from college hasn’t been anywhere near this good :) So thanks again for all the work that’s been put into the resources - I really appreciate it!” (A year 12 Student from the 2016 pilot of the course)

This programme of support has been made possible by the generous support of Dr Tony Hill, Oxford University Alumnus.