



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

**LANCASTER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF
MATHEMATICS (LUSoM)**

**Admissions Policy and Arrangements
for September 2022**

Introduction

Lancaster University School of Mathematics is for 16-19-year-old students with an aptitude and passion for mathematics. All students will study A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics, with up to two other A Levels and a wide, high quality enrichment programme. The School will provide high-quality resources, exceptional teaching, and stretching undergraduate-level content, for students from all backgrounds, within a learning community where talented, like minded and enthusiastic young mathematicians in years 12 and 13 can thrive.

Lancaster University School of Mathematics wants to ensure that its admission process works effectively for the School and provides applicants with a positive experience.

It is intended that the process will:

- enable the School to offer places to able students from a range of diverse backgrounds who will be able to thrive in this distinct learning environment and make a valuable contribution to the School
- allow prospective students and their parents and carers to gain a real sense of what the School is about when deciding whether to apply for or accept the offer to study at the School

Vision Statement

Our vision is to provide an environment where an increasing number of world-class mathematicians thrive and go on to contribute, through mathematics, to the productivity of the UK economy.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to enable the most able mathematicians from all backgrounds to realise their potential within an inspiring, inclusive and supportive learning community.

Key Principles

Lancaster University School of Mathematics is committed to facilitating an admissions process that both promotes the academic aims of the School and widens participation. The School will ensure that the application process is fair and free from discrimination. This will begin with the design of the recruitment and marketing strategy and be reinforced by the wide-ranging outreach programme. All prospective students with specific needs or Education and Healthcare Plans will be supported by specialist staff through the application process to ensure all reasonable adjustments are made and the process is transparent.

Lancaster University School of Mathematics is its own admissions authority and as such is responsible for determining its own admission arrangements and ensuring that all admissions applications are processed fairly and transparently in accordance with these arrangements. The School's admissions policy will be subject to annual review and will be determined and published upon our website by 1st September in the year preceding planned entry.

Admission Numbers and Capacity

The School will admit up to 130 students for entry in September 2022. Applications will be accepted for entry in September 2022 from Year 12 students born between 1st September 2005 and 31st August 2006. The School will welcome applications and interest from students sitting higher tier GCSE papers.

Enquiries from or on behalf of an applicant that fall outside of this cohort should contact the School via the online admissions query form. Students will not normally be admitted into Year 13.

General Entry Criteria

Criteria 1 - Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics

Criteria 2 – Grade 7 or above in GCSE Physics, Chemistry or Grade 7 or above in GCSE Combined Science

Criteria 3 – Grade 5 or above in GCSE English (Language or Literature)

Application Process

The application process is a three-stage process comprising of an online application form, an aptitude test and an interview.

- a) All applicants will be asked to complete and submit an online application form by 1st December 2021. The application form will include a short personal statement asking the applicant to explain why they wish to study at the School and what they feel they could contribute to it.
- b) Applicants are required to provide the contact details of a relevant member of staff (Head of Year/Head of Mathematics) from their current school. They will only be approached for reference if the applicant is selected for interview. Home educated applicants should choose a suitably qualified referee.
- c) All applicants that are predicted to meet the general entry criteria will be invited to take part in a written mathematics aptitude test in January 2022. All applicants will receive advance notice of the date and suitable location of this test.
- d) Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview to further assess their ability to benefit from attending a specialist mathematics school.
- e) Conditional offers will be made to all successful applicants. Applicants will be asked to accept or decline their conditional offer by a given date. Students who are not made offers will be either offered a place on the waiting list or will be advised that their application has not been successful. Offers are made subject to achievement of minimum entry requirements and proof of eligibility of ESFA funding.
- f) In the event of oversubscription and a tie for the last remaining place after the aptitude test and interviews, the applicants' score for GCSE Maths will be used as the differentiator. If a

tie remains, the Progress 8 score will be used in addition to the consideration of a case for supporting underrepresented groups to determine the final place.

Admissions Panel

The School's Admissions Panel is responsible for determining which students receive offers, which students are deemed to have been unsuccessful and which students are placed upon the waiting list.

Waiting List

The School will keep a waiting list and allocate places using the over-subscription criteria. Places may still be offered up to the October half-term, though it is recognised that additional pastoral care and academic support will be needed to help these students settle in and catch up.

Enrolment

Enrolment will take place in August, on GCSE results day. On enrolling at the School, offer holders will be advised on their curriculum options. All LUSoM students will be expected to undertake up to four A-Levels. The majority of students will be required to study Mathematics, Further Mathematics, a third STEM subject at A Level and the LUSoM Award.

Late Applications

Applications received after the December deadline but before June will be considered alongside other applicants only if places remain at that stage of the process.

Applications received after the main offer date will be considered and added to the School's waiting list. Such applications will be offered places only if any remain available after the consideration of all applications received on or before that date.

Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants have the right to appeal against the decision not to award them a place. Details of the admissions appeal procedure, including grounds upon which an appeal may be lodged, are detailed in the School's Admissions Appeals Policy which is available on the website.

Equality and Diversity

The School will do everything it reasonably can to enable applicants to perform at their best, and in making acceptance decisions, it will not discriminate between students on the grounds of gender, disability, faith ethnicity or and protected characteristic.

LUSoM will make reasonable adjustments to support pupils with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) who meet the admissions application criteria as set out above.

LUSoM is committed to widening participation and broadening access to high quality mathematics education. It has developed an outreach strategy so that it works effectively with key partners to ensure that students from a diverse range of backgrounds have the opportunity to apply for a place and to study at the School.

The School will encourage applications from female students through a targeted marketing and recruitment campaign as part of its outreach strategy as set out above (as positive action). However, there will be no positive discrimination for prospective female students as part of the actual admissions process.

As part of its ongoing commitment to promoting equality and diversity, the School undertakes an annual Equality Impact Assessment of its admissions policy.

Bursary Funding

Lancaster University School of Mathematics will allocate bursary funding to support:

- Vulnerable students - in care, care leavers, receiving income support (or Universal Credit) in their own name, receiving Employment Support Allowance (or Universal Credit) and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own name
- Students who do not fall into one of the vulnerable groups but who need financial help to stay in education
- Further information on [financial support](#) is available on the government website

Fees

There are no tuition fees chargeable to full-time students from within the UK for those under 19 years of age on 1 September of the calendar year of enrolment. Some subjects/courses make a charge for additional books/materials and details of these appear in the published course information. Further information is set out in the School's Fees Framework.

Application Timetable for September 2022

Date	Activity/Action
1st September 2021	Admission arrangements published. Application form opens for entry on the School website
	Programme of Taster/Opening Day/Evening Events uploaded to School website
September 2021 – July 2022	Open Evenings and Taster Events <i>Designed to ensure that prospective students and their parents and/or carers can find out more about the School. Please note whilst the school would like as many prospective students as possible to attend these sessions, attendance at one or more of these sessions is not a requirement of the admissions process</i>
1st December 2021	Application deadline for main admissions cycle
January 2022	Mathematics aptitude test
February 2022	Interviews
March 2022	Conditional offers made
August 2022 (GCSE Results Day)	Offers confirmed and students enrolled
September 2022	Classes commence

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