



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Lancaster University

School of Mathematics

Admissions Policy



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1.0. Introductory Statement

The 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.

2.0. Capacity

The school will have a total capacity of 260 places (full-time equivalent) for students mainly in the age range 16-19.

It will admit up to 130 students each year.

3.0. Minimum Study Programme

All students will be expected to enrol on a programme of study comprising a minimum of 540 planned hours per year. All students must study A-Level Mathematics and A-Level Further Mathematics, alongside at least one other A-Level (or equivalent). All students will be required to undertake the LUSoM award in both years.



4.0. Minimum Entry Requirements

Criteria 1 – Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics

Criteria 2 – Grade 7 or above in GCSE Physics, Chemistry or Grade 77 or above in GCSE Combined Science

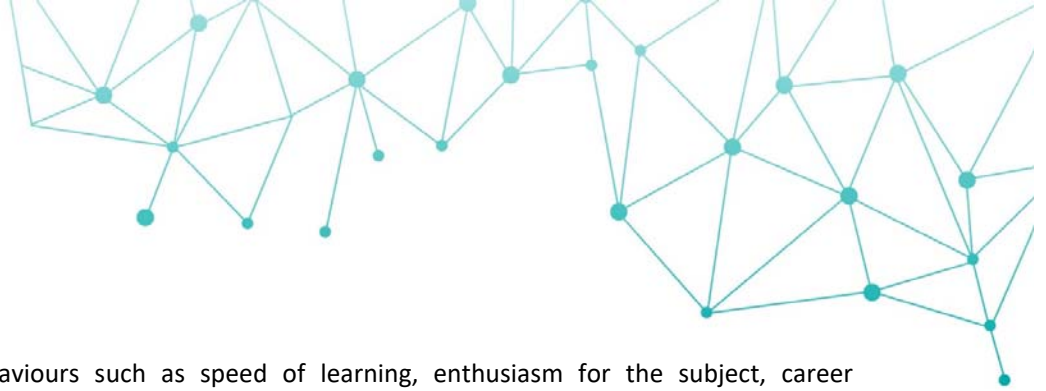
Criteria 3 – Grade 5 or above in GCSE English (Language or Literature)

5.0. Applying for places

The closing date for applications is 31 December 2021. Applicants should apply on the form here [Study – Lancaster University School of Mathematics \(lusom.ac.uk\)](#) and send their application to this address admissions@lusom.ac.uk. Offers will be sent out on 17 March 2022.

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.
- b) All applicants who are sitting the Higher Tier GCSE Mathematics paper will be invited to take part in a written mathematics aptitude test in Spring 2022. All applicants will receive advance notice of the date and suitable location of this test and must attend on this date. Their score from the aptitude test will be used to produce a ranked order of applicants.
- c) The top 200 ranked applicants after the scoring of the aptitude test will be invited to a 30-minute interview to further assess their ability to benefit from attending a specialist mathematics school. The first part of the interview will include the applicant discussing a maths problem with the interviewer, which the applicant can select from a series of problems that will be shared with them in advance of the interview day. Applicants will be assigned a score for this section based on their approach to working through the problem. Applicants will be scored on a four-point scale (zero to three) for this part of the interview process. The interview will also explore their skills, competencies and suitability for studying in the Maths School environment. The interviewers will be looking for



behaviours such as speed of learning, enthusiasm for the subject, career ambitions and the extent to which their learning is self-driven/independent. This section will be scored on a four-point scale (zero to three).

Interview Scoring Criteria			
Inadequate 0	Satisfactory 1	Good 2	Outstanding 3
The applicant demonstrates a limited level of understanding and commitment regarding their specialism, with an under-developed awareness of their own strengths and areas for further development.	The applicant demonstrates a satisfactory level of understanding and commitment for their specialism, with an awareness of their own strengths and areas for further development.	The applicant demonstrates good levels of understanding and commitment for their specialism, with a good awareness of their own strengths and areas for further development.	The applicant demonstrates excellent levels of understanding and passion for their specialism, with excellent awareness of their own strengths and areas for further development.

- d) The scores for both parts of the interview process will be combined and added to their existing score for the aptitude test. The scores will be ranked, and the highest ranked applicants will receive conditional offers.
- e) Conditional Offers will then be made to all successful applicants in March 2022 with conditional offers confirmed in August on GCSE results day. 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.

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.

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



Lancaster University School of Mathematics 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 are encouraged to apply for a place and to study at Lancaster University School of Mathematics.

Lancaster University School of Mathematics 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, Lancaster University School of Mathematics undertakes an annual Equality Impact Assessment of its Admissions Policy.

Term will begin on 05 September 2022.

Waiting Lists

The Lancaster University School of Mathematics 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.

Appeals

Any applicant refused a place will be offered a right of appeal to a committee of the academy trust operating the school. The panel will consider the appellant's case and decide whether to uphold the appeal. Anyone wishing to appeal should contact the Company Secretary, whose details can be found on the LUSoM website. Appeals must be submitted by 30 April 2022 and will be heard by the end of June 2022.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and any amended policy for the following September will be published on the school website before the end of the preceding September (i.e., the policy for 2023 will be published in September 2022). The policy will remain on the website throughout the school year.



Complaints

If you are unhappy with any aspect of the admission policy or appeal process you may submit a complaint, outlining your concerns to the ESFA at Academy.QUESTIONS@education.gsi.gov.uk, though you should first raise any concerns with the Chair of Trustees, Leonard Hampson, via ChairofTrustees@lusom.ac.uk.