TRAINING IN TEACHING

The Mathematical Institute strongly encourages graduate students to become involved in its class teaching. To have had some teaching experience is likely to benefit your career, especially if you intend to continue in academia, where academic jobs increasingly expect some teaching experience, but also more generally as it should help you to develop your communication skills.

As part of the DPhil induction at the start of Michaelmas Term, the Department runs a compulsory training session in class teaching. It then provides opportunities for graduates to act as teaching assistants (TAs) for the third and fourth year undergraduate classes through the intercollegiate class scheme (see the TA job description and registration form for further information). As a TA you will be working as a sort of apprentice to the class tutor, who will mentor you and report briefly at the end of the term on your progress. Reports are reviewed by the Faculty Teaching Advisor (Dr Vicky Neale) and the Director of Undergraduate Studies (Dr Richard Earl).

Attendance at the initial training session together with two satisfactory reports on class teaching, across two terms, leads to a pass in Stage 1 of the training scheme. Those who pass Stage 1 will be considered as fully trained TAs; eligible to act as class tutors in the intercollegiate class scheme (subject to demand, as priority is given to departmental members with teaching contracts); and added to the Departmental Teaching Register which is available for college tutors to consult. The training scheme has been set up to introduce graduates, irrespective of their teaching background, to the format of teaching Maths at Oxford.

Further optional training is offered in Trinity Term in the form of a workshop on tutorial teaching. This is recommended to those who have successfully completed the first stage of training and are interested in acting as a tutor (either in the Department or in a college).

The University offers a second stage of training called Developing Learning and Teaching (DLT), accredited by the Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA). If you wish to go on to this stage of the training, which involves compiling a small teaching portfolio, please make contact with the Faculty Teaching Advisor via acadadmin@maths.ox.ac.uk.

For further details and links to further information please go online: https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/postgraduate-courses/doctor-philosophy/skills-training/training-teaching

Typical pathway through the training scheme:

Note there are no intercollegiate classes in Trinity Term. If you prefer not to teach in your first term at Oxford, the training process will carry over into your second year, until you have satisfactorily completed two terms of TA work.