Problem Solving Matters 2018

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 30th June 2018, Saturday 21st July 2018 and Saturday 22nd October 2018

At Imperial College, London these will take place on
Saturday 23rd June 2018, Saturday 14th July 2018 and Saturday 22nd September 2018.

At Warwick University
Saturday 16th June 2018, Saturday 7th July 2018 and Saturday 15th September 2018

At Durham University
Saturday 23rd June 2018, Saturday 7th July 2018 and Saturday 29th September 2018
There is the possibility of a new venue at Bristol University this year. If you are interested in attending the course, please indicate that Bristol is your first choice. Dates will be similar to those above and will be advertised when they have been confirmed.

The study days 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 will contact your school to confirm the need. 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

Students who apply using this form will be receive confirmation of their application towards the end of April 2018 (later applications will be confirmed as they arrive). Successful applicants will be informed if they have gained a place during the first week of June 2018.

The application process will close on Monday 4th June 2018. 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)