



MSC IN MATHEMATICAL MODELLING AND SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING 2025 - 2026 Notice to Candidates

This circular contains information about:

- standardised marks (USMs) and classification;
- the format of, and procedure for, sitting exam papers in the MSc in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing;
- the use of calculators and tables;
- submission procedures for coursework;
- late submission penalties.

The full Regulations for the MSc in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing examination are contained in the Examination Decrees and Regulations. Full particulars about the syllabus and other information can be found on the Mathematical Institute Course Management webpages which supplement the Course Handbook 2025-26 issued by the Mathematical Institute.

Examination Timetable

Hilary Term Examinations are likely to be:

Thursday 15th January, 9.30am - 12.00pm: Paper A1: Mathematical Methods I

Friday 16th January, 9.30am - 12.00pm: Paper B1: Numerical Solution of Partial Differential Equations and Numerical Linear Algebra

Trinity Term Examinations will take place in Week 0 of Trinity Term (likely Thursday 23rd April and Friday 24th April).

Dates and times will be confirmed as soon as possible.

If you are unable to take a paper at the stipulated time for a religious or other compelling reason, you should ask your college to make the appropriate application on your behalf. Please do not ask the Examiners; they are powerless in such matters.

In addition to the above examinations, the deadlines below for assessed submissions will apply:

Michaelmas Term Special Topics will be due at 12 noon on Monday 19th January

Hilary Term Special Topics will be due at 12 noon on Monday 27th April

Case Studies in Mathematical Modelling will be due at 12 noon on Tuesday 5th May

Case Studies in Scientific Computing will be due at 12 noon on Monday 11th May

Dissertations will be due at 12 noon on Wednesday 2nd September

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Howell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Prof Peter Howell

Chair of MSc in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing Examiners

14th November 2025

Format of Examination Papers

Paper A1: Mathematical Methods I

Paper B1: Numerical Linear Algebra and Numerical Solution of Partial Differential Equations

Paper A2: Mathematical Methods II

Paper B2: Further Numerical Linear Algebra and Continuous Optimization

Each paper lasts for 2.5 hours and consists of 6 questions (each question is marked out of 25). The rubric states “You may attempt as many questions as you like but you must answer at least one question in each section. Your best answer in each section will count, along with your next best answer(s), making a total of four answers.”

Calculators and Tables

The use of calculators and mathematical tables is not permitted in the written examinations for the MSc in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing, but nor will they be required.

Conduct of Examination Sessions

All papers will be sat in the Examination Schools on High Street. You must wear Academic Dress (*sub fusc*) to all in-person examinations, and should arrive for your exam at least 20 minutes before the start of each of your papers. Please ensure you have your university card with you. You are permitted to take non-carbonated water in a spill-proof bottle into the examination room. Nothing else apart from writing equipment can be taken into the examination room unless permission has been granted by the Proctors. You must expect this rule to be rigorously enforced by the invigilators. *Mobile phones are included in this rule and must not be taken into the examination room.*

On reaching your desk you should check that the correct question paper has been provided but should not open the paper until the invigilator declares the start of the examination.

The invigilator will read out a list of instructions on procedure at the start of each examination. You should note in particular that you are not permitted to leave the examination room except with the permission of the invigilator. You are not permitted to leave during the first 30 minutes nor the last 30 minutes of an examination. You may take your question paper with you at the end of the examination but no other paper may be removed from the examination room.

Scripts

Answer booklets are provided. You may write on both sides of the paper. You should take careful note of the rubric for each paper.

It is essential that your candidate number be written correctly and legibly on the front page of each answer booklet. You must start each question in a new booklet.

Queries during the Examination

If you think there is an error within an exam question, you should state this at the top of your answer, along with your understanding of the exam question. You should then continue to answer

the question as best you can. It is not possible to query the content of an exam question during an exam.

Handing-in of Scripts

You must order your answer booklets by section and question number and secure each section with the treasury tag provided. Then, on the front page of the top booklet, in each section list the question numbers of the questions attempted.

Rough work

No special paper is provided for rough work. A separate answer booklet may be used for rough working, and should be labelled as such: these booklets must be handed in at the end of the examination. Alternatively, you may do rough working in the same booklet as the work you wish to have marked. In this case you should cross through all rough working to indicate very clearly to the Examiners what is to be marked and what is not.

Illegible scripts

Please write legibly. Examiners may require illegible scripts to be transcribed, the cost of which is charged to the candidate.

Illness

If you are prevented by illness or other cause from attending any part of the examination you should ensure that the Senior Tutor of your college is informed immediately so that they can refer the case to the Proctors. In the case of illness, a medical certificate will be required. In the absence of Proctorial permission to be absent the consequence of non-attendance will be failure of the paper.

Procedures for Submission of Coursework

Electronic Submissions

Candidates must submit an electronic version of their assessments via Inspira by 12 noon on the day of the submission deadline. The Inspira platform can be accessed at <https://oxford.inspera.com/>. You will not be required to submit a hard copy of your work.

Please check you can see your submissions on Inspira in advance of the deadline to ensure you are able to submit and have the relevant access. You **must** ensure that you submit this work to the relevant test – any work submitted to the incorrect test in Inspira will not be accepted.

NB. Please note that after you have uploaded your work to Inspira, you **must** click 'Submit Now'. Work that is uploaded but not submitted will not be accepted by the Examiners.

In the unlikely event that you experience technical difficulties with the online submission which cannot be resolved before the deadline please contact the MSc administration team at mmsc@maths.ox.ac.uk.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting work or ideas from another source as your own, with or without consent of the original author, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition, as is the use of material generated wholly or in part through use of artificial intelligence (save when use of AI for assessment has received prior authorisation e.g. as a reasonable adjustment for a student's disability). Plagiarism can also include re-using your own work without citation. Under the regulations for examinations, intentional or reckless plagiarism is a disciplinary offence.

Where the Chair finds that a case of plagiarism can be dealt with by the Exam Board, assessors will mark the work on its academic merits. The Board may deduct marks for derivative or poorly referenced work. Boards are free to operate marks deductions of between 1 and 10% (maximum) of the marks available for that particular piece of work. Where the consequence of the marks deduction would result in failure of the assessment and of the programme (i.e. no resit opportunity) the case must be referred to the Proctors.

Please see the University's guidance on plagiarism for detailed information.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>

Use of Artificial Intelligence

The usage of generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) tools must be declared in the same way that existing literature or available software has to be referenced adequately. Special topic and case study reports and the dissertation must all contain an AI usage declaration as detailed in the Departmental Policy on the Use of AI, available from

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/students/departmental-and-university-regulations>

Declaration of Authorship

Upon electronic submission you will be required to declare that you have

- read and understood
 - the University's disciplinary regulations concerning conduct in examinations and, in particular, the regulations on plagiarism
 - the Education Committee's information and guidance on academic good practice and plagiarism
- submitted work that is
 - entirely your own except where otherwise indicated
 - not copied from the work of another candidate
 - not from a service of any agency providing specimen, model, or ghostwritten work
 - not previously submitted, either partially or in full, to this qualification or any other Honour School or University qualification
- acknowledged
 - any assistance you received
 - all material quoted from other sources
 - all paraphrased material with appropriate references
- agreed to

- retain an electronic copy of this work until the publication of the final exam result
- make any such electronic copy available to the examiners should it be necessary to confirm the word count or to check for plagiarism.

Late Submission or Failure to Submit Coursework

For detailed information relating to late submission or failure to submit coursework please see the MMSC Examination Conventions 2025-26.

Submission of Coursework Exceeding the Page Limits

Penalties apply to work submitted that exceeds the expected length of submission as stated in the MMSC Examination Conventions. For detailed information relating to the penalties imposed, please see the MMSC Examination Conventions 2025-26.

MSc in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing

The formal procedures determining the conduct of University examinations are established and enforced by the Proctors.

The Examiners are nominated by the Nominating Committee in the Mathematical Institute and these nominations are submitted for approval by the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctors. Assessors are appointed to assist the examiners and in particular the core course lecturers take on the role of assessors in setting, checking and marking the written exam papers.

It must be stressed that to preserve the independence of the Examiners, candidates are not allowed to make contact directly about matters relating to the content or marking of papers. Any communication must be via the Senior Tutor of your college, who will, if he or she deems the matter of importance, contact the Proctors. The Proctors in turn communicate with the Chair of Examiners.

Examination conventions can be downloaded from the course webpage:

https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/system/files/attachments/examination_conventions_2025.pdf

These conventions are a guide to the Examiners and candidates but the regulations set out in the Examination Regulations have precedence. The Examiners normally adhere to the published examination conventions, subject to the guidance of the appointed external examiners, and other bodies such as the Mathematics Teaching Committee, the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, the University's Education Committee and the Proctors, who may offer advice or make recommendations to examiners.

Standardised Marks and Class Descriptors

Information relating to standardised marks and class descriptors can be located in the MMSC Examination Conventions 2025-26.