



THE CAREERS SERVICE University of Oxford



Career Paths Mathematics Undergraduates

<u>Career paths of students graduating between 1st August 2007 and</u> <u>31st July 2008</u>



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Key observations

- Fewer Maths undergraduates went on to *work only* (34%) than MPLS (52%) and OU respondents in general (49%). More decided to both *work and study* (20% vs. 11% MPLS and 10% OU).
- Fewer Maths undergraduate respondents went to *study only* than last year (24% vs. 31%).
- This year more Maths undergraduates chose *part-time employment* than last year (11% vs. 3% of all employed PPE respondents).
- A higher percentage of Maths undergraduates went to *Professional, scientific, technical activities* (31%) and *Financial and Communication activities* (17%) than OU undergraduate respondents in general (21% and 9% accordingly).
- On average Maths undergraduate respondents tend to earn slightly more than MPLS graduates in general (£27.0K/year vs. £26.5K).
- In comparison with last year and the year before, annual average salary of Maths undergraduates appears to be growing (2005/2006: £23K; 2006/2007: £25K; 2007/2008: £27K).
- 21% of Maths undergraduate respondents chose the *OU Careers Service* as their way of finding a job.
- A higher percentage of Maths undergraduate respondents found their recently gained qualification "important" in finding a job (84%) compared with OU graduates in general (76%) and even of MPLS respondents in particular (83%).
- In the case of further study, **Maths undergraduate respondents mainly chose** *professional qualification* (33%), *higher degree by taught course* (27%) and *higher degree by research* (24%).

There were 2856 valid responses.

The dataset is not based on a sample; therefore significance tests are not applicable. We aim at surveying the whole population of graduates every year, so we treat this survey and its results as a census.

The information contained in this report is based on responses to the DLHE (Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education) survey. The survey took place six months after the courses ended. The data were collected in two stages – in April 2008 and in January 2009.

1. The structure of respondents





¹ Including *Bachelors of Arts* and *Masters of Mathematics* of the following subjects: *Mathematics, Mathematics and Statistics, Mathematics and Philosophy.*

2. Occupations of respondents (work and study)

Figure 2. Occupation of respondents – Mathematics Undergraduate respondents in comparison with MPLS Division and OU in general.







3. Employment status of graduates

Figure 4. Type of employment.



Figure 5. Type of employment – Mathematics Undergraduate respondents by year of graduation.



Table 1. The most popular types of job among Mathematics Undergraduate respondents (top10; 67% of all Maths undergraduates' responses).

Standard Occupation Classification	n
Management Consultants, Actuaries, Economists and Statisticians	9
Finance and Investment Analysts/Advisers	7
Actuaries	6
Software Professionals	5
Secondary Education Teaching Professionals	5
Educational Assistants (excl. HE/FE Tutors and Language Assistants)	3
Investment/Merchant Bankers	2
Primary and Nursery Education Teaching Professionals	2
Clergy	2
Civil Service Executive Officers	2
Total	43

Table 2. The most popular types of employers among Mathematics Undergraduate
respondents (TOP 11; 67% of all Maths undergraduates' responses).

Standard Industry Classification	n
Accounting, bookkeeping and auditing activities; tax consultancy	9
Business and other management consultancy activities	8
General secondary education	7
Computer programming activities	3
Other monetary intermediation	3
Tertiary education	3
Life insurance	2
Activities auxiliary to financial services, except insurance and pension	
funding	2
Fund management activities	2
Market research and public opinion polling	2
Regulation of the activities of providing health care, education, cultural	
services and other social services, excluding	2
Total	43



Figure 6. Sectors of employment among Mathematics Undergraduate respondents and Oxford University <u>undergraduate</u> respondents in general.

4. Annual pay before tax

Thirty-nine respondents gave their estimated annual salary before tax.

	Table 3. Annual	l salary	of respo	ondents (în t	thousands)).
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	Mathematics Undergraduates	MPLS Division	Students of the OU in general
Mean	£27.0	£26.5	£26.1
Standard deviation	£9.3	£10.3	£13.1

 Table 4. The average annual salary of Mathematics Undergraduate respondents (mean in thousands) by gender.

	Mean (in thousands)	Standard deviation (in thousands)
Female	£24.2	£10.5
Male	£28.9	£8.0

 Table 5. The average annual salary of Mathematics Undergraduate respondents by year of completion of studies.

	Mean (in thousands)	Standard deviation (in thousands)
2007/2008	£27.0	£9.3
2006/2007	£25.0	£9.6
2005/2006	£23.3	£11.7

5. Ways of finding a job





6. The importance of an obtained qualification in finding a job



Figure 8. Subjective importance of gained qualification in getting a job.

Figure 9. Subjective importance of gained qualification in getting a job – Mathematics Undergraduates in comparison with MPLS Division and respondents in general.



Figure 10. The mode of further study (training) of respondents – Mathematics Undergraduate respondents vs. OU in general.





Figure 12. Further study – type of qualification by Mathematics Undergraduate respondent's year of completion.



Figure 11. Further study – type of qualification.

 Table 6. Subject of further study – Mathematics undergraduate respondents.

Subject of further study	Number of Graduates
Higher degree	23
PGCE	6
Professional qualification - actuary	8
Professional qualification - management consultancy	3
Professional qualification - accountancy	2
Professional qualification - finance	1
Legal training	1
Other	6
Total	50

Table 7. Higher Education Establishments providing further education for Mathematics Undergraduates.

Higher Education Establishment	Number of Graduates
The University of Oxford	17
The University of Warwick	2
Canterbury Christ Church University	1
Kingston University	1
The University of Bristol	1
The University of Cambridge	1
The University of Lancaster	1
London School of Economics and Political Science	1
Swansea University	1
The University of Manchester	1
Other UK institution	20
Other non-UK institution	2
Total	49