

**BSc Mathematics**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6**

**UCAS code: G100**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Awarding Institution:                       | University of Reading  |
| Teaching Institution:                       | University of Reading  |
| Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s): | Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research   |
| Faculty:                                    | Science Faculty  |
| Programme length:                           | 3 years  |
| Date of specification:                      | 19/Dec/2017  |
| Programme Director:                         | Dr Peter Chamberlain   |
| Programme Advisor:                          | Dr Peter Chamberlain   |
| Board of Studies:                           | School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences   |
| Undergraduate                               |  |
| Accreditation:                              | Accredited by the Institute of Mathematics and its applications to meet the educational requirements of the Chartered Mathematician designation when followed by subsequent training and experience in employment to obtain competencies to those specified by the QAA for taught masters degrees. with Placement Experience |
| Optional placement variation(s):            |  |

**Summary of programme aims**

The BSc programme in Mathematics aims to provide a good general mathematical education for those not necessarily intending to continue as professional mathematicians. This is achieved by providing core material in the first two years and then in the third year a blend of courses, some giving an overview of a broad area of mathematics and others studying a particular topic in depth, along with a range of appropriate subject-specific and transferable skills.

**Transferable skills**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, team working, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

By the end of the programme students are expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills: IT (word-processing, using standard and mathematics software), scientific writing, oral presentation, team-working, problem-solving, use of library resources, time-management, and career management and planning.

**Programme content**

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the optional modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number credits per module and the level of each module are shown after its title.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

*Compulsory modules*

| <i>Mod Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i>        | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| MA1FM           | Foundations of Mathematics | 20             | 4            |
| MA1CA           | Calculus                   | 20             | 4            |
| MA1LA           | Linear Algebra             | 20             | 4            |

*Selected modules*

Students following this programme in Part 1 need to take the following modules. Student's transferring to this programme after Part 1 are permitted to have taken up to 60 credits of their joint subject according to their joint programme specification.

*Core modules*

| Mod Code | Module Title               | Credits | Level |
|----------|----------------------------|---------|-------|
| MA1RA1   | Real Analysis I            | 20      | 4     |
| ST1PS    | Probability and Statistics | 20      | 4     |
| MA1ALG   | Algebra I                  | 10      | 4     |
| MA1MM    | Mathematical Modelling     | 10      | 4     |

## Part 2 (three terms)

### *Compulsory modules*

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Module title</i>             | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| MA2ODE      | Ordinary Differential Equations | 10             | 5            |
| MA2PDE      | Partial Differential Equations  | 10             | 5            |
| MA2GS       | General Skills                  | 10             | 5            |
| MA2MIP      | Mathematics in Practice         | 10             | 5            |
| MA2VC       | Vector Calculus                 | 10             | 5            |
| MA2NA1      | Numerical Analysis I            | 10             | 5            |
| MA2CA1      | Complex Analysis I              | 10             | 5            |
| Plus either |                                 |                |              |
| MA2AL2      | Algebra II                      | 10             | 5            |
| Or          |                                 |                |              |
| MA2ALG      | Algebra I                       | 10             | 5            |
| Plus either |                                 |                |              |
| MA2RA2      | Real Analysis II                | 10             | 5            |
| Or          |                                 |                |              |
| MA2RA       | Real Analysis                   | 20             | 5            |

### *Optional modules*

(i) Choose a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 40 credits from:

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Title</i>                  | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| MA2ASV      | Analysis in Several Variables | 10             | 5            |
| MA2PT1      | Probability Theory I          | 10             | 5            |
| MA2MPH      | Mathematical Physics          | 10             | 5            |
| ST2MS       | Medical Statistics            | 10             | 5            |
| ST2ST       | Statistical Theory            | 10             | 5            |
| ST2LM       | Linear Models                 | 10             | 5            |
| MA2SPL      | Summer Placement              | 10             | 5            |

(ii) Select a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 20 credits from:

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Title</i>                     | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| LA1XXX      | Modern Language                  | 20             | 4            |
| MT2CC       | The Science of Climate Change    | 10             | 5            |
| MM270       | The Practice of Entrepreneurship | 20             | 5            |
| ST2PS       | Probability and Statistics       | 20             | 5            |

## Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)

### *Compulsory modules*

|       |                           |     |   |
|-------|---------------------------|-----|---|
| MA2PY | Industrial Placement Year | 120 | 5 |
|-------|---------------------------|-----|---|

The placement should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time and students will be assessed in the form of an end-of-year project.

## Part 3 (three terms)

### Compulsory modules

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Module Title</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| MA3CA1      | Complex Analysis I  | 10             | 6            |
| MA3PR       | Project             | 10             | 6            |
| Or          |                     |                |              |
| ST3PR       | Statistics Project  | 20             | 6            |

### Optional Modules

*Students must take 120 credits of optional modules from a list available from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, at least 70 of which must be Mathematics modules. The selection must include a Mathematics or Statistics project, or a peer assisted learning module.*

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Title</i>                            | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| MA3CA2      | Complex Analysis II                     | 10             | 6            |
| MA3TLA      | Topology and Linear Analysis            | 20             | 6            |
| MA3FA1      | Functional Analysis I                   | 10             | 6            |
| MA3Z7       | Number Theory                           | 10             | 6            |
| MA3CEC      | Cryptography and Error Correcting Codes | 10             | 6            |
| MA3GT       | Galois Theory                           | 20             | 6            |
| MA3NAT      | Numerical Analysis II                   | 20             | 6            |
| MA3CV       | Calculus of Variations                  | 10             | 6            |
| MA3AGT      | Applied Graph Theory                    | 10             | 6            |
| MA3DS       | Dynamical Systems                       | 10             | 6            |
| MA3MB       | Mathematical Biology                    | 10             | 6            |
| MA3CM       | Classical Mechanics                     | 10             | 6            |
| MA3FM       | Fluid Mechanics                         | 10             | 6            |
| MA3AST      | Applied Stochastic Processes            | 10             | 6            |
| MA3WW       | Water Waves                             | 10             | 6            |
| MA3MTI      | Measure Theory and Integration          | 10             | 6            |
| MA3PD2      | Partial Differential Equations II       | 10             | 6            |
| ST3MVA      | Multivariate Data Analysis              | 10             | 6            |
| ST3GLM      | Generalised Linear Models               | 10             | 6            |
| ST3MSD      | Modelling Structured Data               | 10             | 6            |
| ST3ED       | Experimental Design                     | 10             | 6            |
| ST3BDA      | Bayesian Data Analysis                  | 10             | 6            |
| ST3CTS      | Computational Techniques in Statistics  | 10             | 6            |

### Progression requirements

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and qualify for the CertHE a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at 4 level or above, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1 and obtain a weighted average of least 40% over the modules MA1CA, MA1LA, MA1FM and obtain marks of at least 30% in 120 credits.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

Students are required to pass the professional/placement year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional/placement year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

### Summary of Teaching and Assessment

The University's honours classification scheme is:

| <i>Mark</i> | <i>Interpretation</i>  |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 70% - 100%  | First class            |
| 60% - 69%   | Upper Second class     |
| 50% - 59%   | Lower Second class     |
| 40% - 49%   | Third class            |
| 35% - 39%   | Below Honours Standard |
| 0% - 34%    | Fail                   |

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: [www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/eva-class.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/eva-class.aspx)

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

### **Three-year programmes**

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

### **Four-year programmes, including placement year:** Normally

Part 2 one-third

Placement Year not included in classification

Part 3 two-thirds

(where students fail a placement year which does not contribute to classification they transfer to the three-year version of the programme)

Teaching is organised in modules that typically involve both lectures and problems. The assessment is carried out within the University's degree classification scheme, details of which are in the programme handbooks. The pass mark in each module is 40%. Modules in Part 1 and 2 are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. There are some modules which are assessed wholly by coursework and others wholly by examination; the details are given in the module descriptions.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

- UCAS Tariff: A Level: ABB including grade A in A Level Mathematics;
- International Baccalaureate: 32 points including 6 in Higher Mathematics.

Equivalent qualifications are acceptable.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Calvin Smith

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support teams and IT Services. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Support Centres. If a student has a general enquiry and is unsure where to seek help, they should visit their Support Centre. There are five Support Centres across the University, including one based at the London Road Campus. The Support Centre will be able to advise on matters such as extenuating circumstances, module selection, suspensions, withdrawals, timetable queries and transferring programme. The Support Centre will also be able to signpost students to Carrington building where other University services related to disability, financial support, counselling and wellbeing, accommodation and careers can be found. More information on what student services are available can be found here: <http://student.reading.ac.uk/essentials>.

Within the Mathematics & Statistics Department additional support is given through practical classes in Part 1. The development of problem-solving skills is assisted by provision of model solutions to problems. There is a Programme Adviser to offer advice on the choice of modules within the programme.

### **Career learning**

### **Career prospects**

Mathematics graduates typically find employment in areas such as finance, accountancy, actuarial work, management services and teaching, as well as further study and research and some less common choices. In recent years students who have followed this programme have gone into jobs as actuarial trainee, trainee chartered accountant, IT management trainee, teaching, business analyst and postgraduate study.

### **Opportunities for study abroad**

There are currently no opportunities for Study Abroad on this programme.

### **Placement opportunities**

A version of this programme which includes a maxi placement is available (BSc Mathematics with a Placement Year).

### **Programme Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. The fundamental concepts and techniques of calculus, analysis, algebra and numerical mathematics
2. The use of the basic techniques of mathematics in applicable areas of mathematics, such as differential equations, mechanics and numerical analysis
3. A selection of more specialist optional topics
4. Some of the breadth of topics which can be tackled by mathematics

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

The knowledge required for the basic topics is delineated in formal lectures supported by problem sets for students to tackle on their own. In Part 1 these are supported by tutorials and practical classes through which students can obtain feedback on their non-assessed work.

In the later parts of the course students are expected to work at additional problems on their own and seek help when required, using the office hours of staff. Where appropriate, model solutions are provided for problems set.

4. is provided by the project module

##### *Assessment*

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations.

Dissertations and oral presentations also contribute in other parts of the programme.

#### **Skills and other attributes**

##### **B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:**

1. Think logically
2. Analyse and solve problems
3. Organise tasks into a structured form
4. Transfer appropriate knowledge and methods from one topic within the subject to another
5. Conduct independent study of a chosen topic and report on the results

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Logic is an essential part of the understanding and construction of mathematical proofs and is embedded throughout the programme. The quality of a solution to a problem is substantially determined by the structure of that response; analysis, synthesis, problem solving, integration of theory and application, and knowledge transfer from one topic to another are intrinsic to high-level performance in the programme.

##### *Assessment*

1- 3 are assessed indirectly in most parts of Mathematics, while 4 contributes to the more successful work. 5 is assessed in the report produced as part of the project module

### **C. Practical skills - able to:**

1. Understand and construct mathematical proofs
2. Formulate and solve mathematical problems
3. Analyse numerical methods and respond to the issues of accuracy, stability and convergence
4. Write and present orally a report on a chosen topic

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Mathematical proof is taught in Part 1 lectures and reinforced in practical classes. Problem solving is introduced in lectures in Part 1 and forms a large part of subsequent Mathematics. Numerical analysis courses introduce and develop the ideas of accuracy, stability and convergence, illustrated by practical tasks.

#### *Assessment*

1 and 2 are tested both formatively in coursework and summatively in examinations. 3 is assessed practically through coursework and the principles through formal examination. 4 is assessed through the project dissertation and its oral presentation.

### **D. Transferable skills - able to:**

1. Use IT (word-processing, using standard and mathematical software)
2. Communicate scientific ideas
3. Give oral presentations
4. Work as part of a team
5. Use library resources
6. Manage time
7. Plan their career

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

The use of IT is embedded throughout the computational side of the course. Team work and career planning are part of the modules Mathematics in Practice and General Skills. Communication skills are the focus of a module in Part 2, and these are deployed in the final year project. Time management is essential for the timely and effective completion of the programme. Library resources are required for the small project within one Part 2 module and the final year project, and contribute to the best performances throughout.

#### *Assessment*

1 and 2 are assessed through coursework. 3 - 5 and 7 contribute assessed coursework towards the Part 2 modules General Skills and Mathematics in Practice, and 2, 3 and 5 also in the project. Effective use of all of these skills will enhance performance in later modules.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**