

Programme Specification

Mathematics with Biology (2017-18)

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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	3
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc (Hons))
Name of award	Mathematics with Biology
Interim Exit awards	Bachelor of Science (Ordinary)
	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
FHEQ level of final award	Level 6
UCAS code	G1C1
Programme code	4734
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Mathematics, Statistics And Operational Research 2007
Programme Lead	Benjamin Macarthur (bdm)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The modular structure in Mathematics allows some flexibility in designing a programme to meet your needs, while the framework below has been developed to ensure coherence in the programme you will help to design.

The degree programme comprises a core of Mathematics and compulsory Biology modules, which occupies the whole of the first year, most of the second year and part of the third year, together with options chosen by you.

Transfer to this programme is normally only possible early in Semester 1 of the first year from a number of other programmes within Mathematical Sciences.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

The Department uses a wide variety of modern learning and teaching methods involving small group tutorial work and computer based learning that builds on what you learn in lectures.

Assessment

Assessment is varied enabling you to demonstrate your strengths and show what you have learnt. Students are provided with access to relevant software that they can use on their own personal computers to assist their studies.

Special Features of the programme

N/A

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

- Introduce you to the main basic areas of mathematics and biology;
- Develop your understanding of abstract mathematical concepts;
- Offer you the opportunity to study advanced mathematical concepts and techniques;
- Develop your appreciation of the nature and importance of experimental data in biology;
- Offer you the opportunity to construct an individual programme of study within a coherent framework;
- Offer you the opportunity to study applications of mathematics in a variety of contexts which utilize mathematical and statistical models;
- Offer you the opportunity to study mathematics of particular relevance to biological applications;
- Introduce you to some of the key developments of 20th and 21st century biology;
- Develop your appreciation of the nature and importance of experimental data in biology;
- Develop your subject specific and transferable skills including an analytical approach to problem solving, logical argument and deductive reasoning, abstraction and generalisation, and written communication skills in mathematics;
- Provide some of the basic IT skills necessary for further study and employment, including word processing and use of the internet;
- Help you to develop key skills: personal organisation, teamwork, problem solving and analysis, finding and using information, and written and oral presentation.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme a student will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The fundamentals of calculus, linear algebra, and statistics;
- A2. The fundamentals of ordinary differential equations and their applications;
- A3. The principles of mathematical proof and some of the techniques of proof;
- A4. The fundamental concepts of real analysis of functions of one variable;
- A5. The basic concepts of contemporary cell and population biology.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Acquisition of knowledge and understanding of A1 through A5 is through structured exposition based on lectures, tutorial classes, private study, laboratory and fieldwork, all of which are equally important. Increasing independence of learning is required as the programme progresses.

Throughout the programme you are encouraged to use additional recommended reading material for private study to consolidate the formal learning process, and to broaden and deepen your understanding.

Assessment Methods

Assessment is undertaken in the first year by a mixture of unseen examinations, regular marked coursework, class tests and computer-based work, together with a small component of project and laboratory work. This variety of assessment relates to A1 through A3, and also to some of the skills described below. This varied approach to assessment continues in the remainder of the programme, with the relative emphasis depending on the options chosen (A4 - A5).

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme a student will be able to:

- B1. Mathematical problem-solving skills for certain types of problems and their variants in a variety of mathematical and biological contexts;
- B2. The ability to undertake algebraic calculations accurately and with understanding;
- B3. The ability to use computer packages (for example, R) as vehicles for mathematical exploration and understanding;
- B4. The ability to understand and to construct mathematical proofs;
- B5. The ability to appreciate, construct and analyse mathematical models of practical situations;
- B6. Use laboratory and field equipment to generate data

- B7. Critically evaluate biological information
- B8. Appreciate, construct and analyse mathematical and statistical models of biological processes and systems, with particular emphasis on Population Biology.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Problem-solving is at the heart of all mathematical activity, and so it is emphasised throughout the learning and teaching experience, as is the need for accurate calculation and logical argument. The use of specific mathematical and computational packages is a part of the curriculum, and the skills acquired there are used in later modules as appropriate. Biological practical and research skills are further developed through field work, laboratory work and projects.

Assessment Methods

The various methods of assessment described in section 2 involve problem-solving (B1) in addition to the assessment of knowledge and understanding (B2, B4 through B8). Fluency in computer packages (B3) is assessed by coursework.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme a student will be able to:

- C1. Communicate mathematical and biological ideas in written form;
- C2. Undertake oral presentations;
- C3. Demonstrate group-working skills
- C4. Use email, spreadsheets and show basic word-processing skills;
- C5. Use and obtain information from a variety of different sources including the internet, books and other printed material;
- C6. Use the skills you have acquired (e.g. time-management, organisation, problem-solving, critical analysis, independent learning, etc.) for life-long learning.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The learning of transferable skills begins in the first year. The first year lecturers will set problems for which one of a range of computing packages, such as the statistics package R, will be useful, thereby developing transferable skills alongside subject specific skills. Other IT skills such as basic word processing are used alongside first year project work, particularly in statistics. Mathematics workshops are offered during the first and second years, and extensive electronic resources on study skills are available through the Mathematics and University websites.

Further development of IT skills, written communication and general skills such as organisation and time-management is associated to optional second and third year modules which may have an element of coursework in their assessment. The second and third year project based modules develop your

portfolio of skills to include internet and library research, group working, and presentation skills.

Assessment Methods

Throughout the programme the clear communication of mathematics and Biology is part of the assessment criteria, either explicitly or implicitly. For project work, and for those modules which involve coursework assignments, a proportion of the assessment is allocated to communication (C1, C2, and C4). Project work and coursework assessment also relate to C5, and where appropriate, C3. The skills referred to in C6 refer to problem-solving, an integral component of all mathematical work, and other learning skills are implicit.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Part I

Typical programme content

The modular structure in Mathematical Sciences allows some flexibility in designing a programme to meet your needs, while the framework below has been developed to ensure coherence in the programme you will help to design. While studying for your degree you will also have the opportunity to develop key work and study skills including written and spoken communication, the use of information technology, time management and basic research skills including the use of the web and the library. As well as developing your personal skills you will learn to work in a team.

Innovation modules outside of your subject area

Our Curriculum Innovation Programme offers you the chance to take optional modules outside of your chosen subject area. This allows you to personalise your education, to develop new skills and knowledge for your future. Modules range from "Living and working on the web" to "Business skills for employability".

Learn a language

Some of our programmes also give you the option of taking a language module, which can count towards your degree. These modules cover ten languages and range from absolute beginner to near-native speaker level.

Programme details

The structure of the programme and the modules currently offered are set out below. Of the modules shown against each year of your programme, some are compulsory (i.e. enrolment is automatic) and others are optional. Against each year, you are directed to which modules are compulsory and which are optional. The optional modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between years. A complete list of optional modules currently available on your programme can be found via the Student Record Self-Service system (https://studentrecords.soton.ac.uk/BNNRPROD/bwkkspgr.showpage?page=ESC_PROGCAT_FINDPR).

The programme comprises three parts, each corresponding to one year of full-time study. You will normally have to

take 4 modules (30 ECTS/60 CATS) each semester (i.e. 8 modules (60 ECTS/120 CATS) in each year of the programme. Each credit can be considered as the equivalent of approximately ten hours of study. All the modules offered in this programme (except MATH1056) are 7.5 ECTS/15 CATS modules. This means that each module comprises around 150 hours of study divided into contact time (e.g. lectures, seminars, workshops) and non-contact time when you will be engaged in directed study (preparation for classes) and independent study when you will be involved in producing assignments and preparing and taking examinations.

The option modules shown below constitute an indicative list; there will always be choice but the options might vary between years. A full list of modules and rules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
BIOL1003	Ecology & Evolution	7.5	Compulsory
MATH1024	Introduction to Probability and Statistics	7.5	Compulsory
MATH1049	Linear Algebra II	7.5	Compulsory
MATH1060	Multivariable Calculus	7.5	Compulsory
BIOL1004	Patterns of Life	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MATH1059	Calculus	7.5	Core
MATH1048	Linear Algebra I	7.5	Core

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MATH1057	Dynamics and Relativity	7.5	Optional
MATH1058	Operational Research I and Mathematical Computing	7.5	Optional

Part II

Part II Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MATH2039	Analysis	7.5	Compulsory
BIOL1005	Cell Biology & Genetics	7.5	Compulsory
MATH2008	Introduction to Applied Mathematics	7.5	Compulsory
BIOL2004	Pure and Applied Population Ecology	7.5	Compulsory
MATH2011	Statistical Distribution Theory	7.5	Compulsory
MATH2010	Statistical Methods I	7.5	Compulsory
MATH2012	Stochastic Processes	7.5	Compulsory

Part II Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MATH2038	Partial Differential Equations	7.5	Core

Part III

Part III Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
BIOL2001	Evolution	7.5	Compulsory
MATH3052	Mathematical Biology	7.5	Compulsory
MATH3031	Mathematics Project	7.5	Compulsory

Part III Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MATH3032	Communicating and Researching Mathematics	7.5	Core

Part III Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MATH3083	Advanced Partial Differential Equations	7.5	Optional
BIOL3009	Applied Ecology	7.5	Optional
BIOL3053	Biodiversity and Conservation	7.5	Optional
MATH3014	Design and Analysis of Experiments	7.5	Optional
BIOL3056	Global Change Biology: Molecules to Ecosystem	7.5	Optional
MATH3084	Integral Transform Methods	7.5	Optional
BIOL3015	Regulation of Gene Expression	7.5	Optional
MATH3044	Statistical Inference	7.5	Optional
MATH3012	Statistical Methods II	7.5	Optional
MATH3085	Survival Models	7.5	Optional
BIOL3010	Topics in Ecology and Evolution	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) or the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes](#) as set out in the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- Module co-ordinators support. Module co-ordinators will be available at designated times during the week to discuss issues related to the particular modules you are studying at the time. This will be in addition to class contact time.
- Academic/personal tutor. As soon as you register on this programme, you will be allocated a personal tutor. S/he is a member of the academic team and will be available to discuss general academic issues related to the programme as well as offer advice and support on any personal issues which may affect your studies.
- Module handbooks/outlines. These will be available at the start of each module (often in online format). The handbook includes the aims and learning outcomes of the module, the methods of assessment, relevant background material to the module and a session-by-session breakdown of the module together with appropriate reading lists.
- Within the faculty, administrative support is provided by your student office which deals with student records and related issues and with queries related to your specific degree programme.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student surveys for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feed back on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Excellence Framework (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Criteria for admission

The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

IB:

36 points, 18 at higher level, including 6 in higher level mathematics

Alternative qualifications

Cambridge Pre-U

Our normal requirements are for D3D3M1 in the three principle subjects including D3 in Mathematics and at least M1 in Biology.

In addition we welcome applications from candidates offering other suitable qualifications with an appropriate mathematical content.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

Qualification	Grades	Subjects required	Subjects not accepted	EPQ Alternative offer (if applicable)	Contextual Alternative offer (if applicable)
A Level	AAA (or AAB with Further Mathematics)	including grade A in A-level Mathematics and grade B in Biology			

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

Students are accepted under the University's recognition of prior learning policy; however, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

English Language Proficiency

The table below sets out the English proficiency requirements for this programme in terms of the IELTS test. We accept a range of other English proficiency tests including TOEFL and Cambridge Advanced/Proficiency. For full details of the recognised tests and the equivalent requirements in those tests please see www.southampton.ac.uk/admissions-language.

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
6.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5

Career Opportunities

Employability is embedded into modules from the first year onwards and right from the first lecture. We explain the degree skills which are taught throughout the modules and offer a number of optional employability modules.

We place great importance on the development of graduate skills vital for future employment by adding transferrable skills into learning and teaching.

Our degrees are a passport to vocational and non-vocational careers alike, with recent graduates employed in roles ranging from actuaries and statisticians to crime analysts and medical researchers.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: John Parker - University of Durham

Name: Peter Duck - University of Manchester

Name: Lawrence Pettit - Queen Mary College University of London

Name: Dolores Romero Morales - Copenhagen Business School

Name: Malcolm Brown - University of Kent

Name: Jonathan Codd

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any

such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Software Licenses	The software required for the programme is available on all public workstations on campus, and accessible from your own computer via VPN.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	<p>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source.</p> <p>Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</p>
Approved Calculators	Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX-570 and Casio FX-85GT Plus. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	<p>In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing-for-students.page.</p> <p>For students undertaking modules with a high mathematical content, some assessed work will be submitted in handwritten hard copy format. Students are advised that they will need to bear the costs of the required stationery.</p>

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.