



DEPARTMENTAL ADMISSIONS STATEMENT

Department Name
Engineering Mathematics (G160, G161)

Admissions Team:
Emma Weeks (Administrator), Dr Martin Homer, Dr Jonathan Lawry, Dr Jonathan Rossiter

1. Admissions Process

UK/EU Applicants

The Engineering Mathematics admissions team is made up of four full-time members of staff - an Administrator and three academics - and reports to the Head of Department.

All UCAS forms are initially assessed by the Administrator and then by two academic members of the admissions team. Forms are considered equally and are not segregated in any way. The department aims to carry out this assessment, and contact candidates, within one week of receipt of the UCAS form by the department. The size of the admissions team ensures that this is possible.

Any student with the appropriate subject combination and grade predictions meeting or approaching a standard offer is required to attend a departmental Admissions Day as an indicator of commitment to their chosen course. Candidates will be offered a choice of possible dates (Wednesdays between November and March), and allowance will be made for any exceptional circumstances. We tell UCAS and the candidate the outcome as soon as possible after the Admissions Day, but usually within 2 weeks.

The Admissions Day provides an opportunity for both the applicants and their parents to see the Department, meet members of staff and students and gain a better understanding of the course and applications of engineering mathematics through presentations, informal discussions and interview. It also provides an important opportunity for applicants to ensure that the course is appropriate for them. We are a recruiting department and have found in the past that students' attendance at our Admissions Days has a strong correlation with choosing our degree programmes.

At no stage in the admissions process is there any unfair discrimination. The department is committed to equal opportunities, and we do not discriminate on the grounds of educational institution attended, race, ethnicity, nationality,

gender, sexuality, religion, disability or age. Engineering Mathematics has a tradition of attracting a substantial proportion of state school students. The department is committed to increasing participation on its degree programmes by students of high potential, independent of background and personal circumstances.

Processes specific to Overseas Applicants (if any)

Overseas applications are processed in the same manner as UK/EU, except that candidates not resident in the UK are not required to attend a departmental Admissions Day.

2. Criteria for assessing candidates

UK/EU Applicants

Appropriate subject combination

The department requires applicants to be studying, or to have received, an appropriate combination of A-level (or equivalent) qualifications to successfully complete our courses, which are all based on an understanding of mathematical and engineering principles. These are:

- Predicted/achieved at least grade A in A-level Mathematics, *and*
- Studying/passed any other two A-levels at grades AB, or four AS-levels, excluding General Studies.

The information contained within each Personal Statement and School Reference is carefully considered for each applicant. Evidence of potential to complete the course may include, but is not restricted to:

- demonstration of interest in and commitment to mathematics and engineering
- strong mathematical, analytical and technical skills
- relevant reading, research or experience beyond the A-level syllabus
- appropriateness of the chosen course to the candidate's interests and aspirations
- non-academic achievement and experience (for example, work experience in industry), positions of responsibility, team working
- standard of written English

Departmental Admissions Day

Candidates who are invited to attend a departmental Admissions Day are required to do so as an indicator of commitment to their chosen course. The Admissions Day includes an informal interview with an academic member of the department. Although primarily designed to establish that each candidate has applied to the appropriate course and whether the student's details have changed in any way since the original UCAS form was submitted, the interviewer will also look at other criteria, which may include, but are not limited to:

- demonstration of mathematical, analytical and technical skills
- evidence of clear thinking and understanding
- evidence of motivation and commitment
- interest in the subject
- non-academic achievement and/or experience
- responses to challenges faced

The interviewer does not make a selection decision. The informal interviews are used to determine the level of offer and to provide a more comprehensive picture of each candidate for the Admissions Team.

Candidates who do not meet the minimum entry criteria, but for whom the course may be suitable, are invited to a formal interview as part of the Admissions Day. All interviews intended to select students are conducted by two people, including a member of staff with training in fair and effective recruitment techniques and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

Candidates are normally sent a decision within 10 days of their visit. This decision, made by the Admissions Team, will have taken into consideration all aspects of the application (personal statement, reference and interview feedback). Allowance will be made for any candidate with verified exceptional circumstances.

Non-GCE qualifications

Candidates with non-standard qualifications will be assessed individually. We welcome applications from mature students and BTEC candidates with HNC/D will be given serious consideration.

Criteria specific to Overseas Applicants (if any)

Applicants are required to be fluent in English; non-native speakers are required to achieve a minimum standard of 6.5 in the IELTS test of English Language (or equivalent).

3. Offers

UK/EU Applicants

The standard offer for all undergraduate programmes in the Department is: A level grades of AAB, to include at least grade A in A-level Mathematics. General Studies is excluded from the offer. For applicants taking the International Baccalaureate, the standard offer is an overall score of 35 to include at least 6 in Mathematics at Higher Level. Applicants with alternative qualifications will receive an equivalent offer. Students who have already received results of A level (or equivalent) examinations will have their offer reduced correspondingly.

Candidates of exceptional promise, who have been disadvantaged by individual circumstances, or to whom the department wishes to send an encouraging signal, may receive a non-standard offer. Decisions to make a non-standard offer will be made on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the specific circumstances of the individual applicant.

Any additional or amended requirements for Overseas Applicants

None.

Signed by Head of Department:

Print Name: Professor Alan Champneys

Date: October 2008