



Dear Applicant

The Mathematics Education teaching team are very much looking forward to welcoming you in September. We appreciate that at this stage in the application cycle you may have questions that will help you to make a decision on your plans for next year and, if you have accepted your offer, to plan for your arrival. Do get in touch with us (see e-addresses at the end of this letter).



Programme Structure

For those of you studying full-time, over the year you will take six taught units and complete a dissertation. The units are designed to provide the foundation for you to conduct the dissertation research project, an opportunity for you to carry out some research in an area that you are really interested in.

The three core units in mathematics education are taken two in the first term and one in the second term of the year:

- 1) First term: [Teaching and Learning in Mathematics](#) (the impact of different learning theories on research in mathematics education and the implication for the practice of teaching mathematics – supports the development of academic reading and writing with a critically questioning voice)
- 2) First term: [Curriculum Design and Development in School Mathematics](#) (perspectives in relation to evolving international mathematics curriculum development and the influence of culture – supports completion of a literature search)
- 3) Second term: [Children Learning Mathematics – School-Based Inquiry](#) (carrying out a small-scale research project – a pilot for the dissertation study).

In the first term, you will also complete the unit, [Introduction to Educational Inquiry](#) (IEI) to support your development as a researcher. It is recommended that in the second term you then take [Developing subject knowledge in the 21st Century](#) to focus on an area of your subject knowledge where you want to extend your knowledge. To complete your taught units, you can choose a further unit from a range of options to support your interests and needs.

For those of you studying part-time, we will be working with you flexibly over two or three years and you can discuss your programme with us. We recommend that for students studying over two years you take 60-80 credits in Year 1 to allow time for the Dissertation in Year 2. For students studying over three years we recommend taking the taught units (120 credits) in the first two years, leaving the third year for the Dissertation.

Some of you may well be able to import credit for units from PGCE and or other study completed in the last five years.

Please be advised that the [Postgraduate Government Loan](#) requires completion of the full programme i.e. 180 credits. Those importing credits will not be eligible for this loan.

Students who successfully import credits will receive a pro-rata fee discount for the credits awarded in their final free paying year of study.

Mathematics Education Staff



[Alf Coles](#) and [Tracy Helliwell](#) do most of the teaching on the core units and are involved in their own research projects and writing, alongside their teaching on the MSc. You will also join the [Mathematics Education Research Network](#) (MERN) and will meet [Rosamund Sutherland](#) and [Laurinda Brown](#) alongside visiting lecturers, fellows and PhD students.

Pre-course preparation

Before you arrive in Bristol it will be useful if you have begun some reading in academic journals. We hope you will get a sense of the kinds of research and issues that interest you and that you can develop on the MSc. We aim to support your interests. Here are three websites where you can access journal articles:

<http://flm-journal.org> ("For the Learning of Mathematics")

<https://link.springer.com/journal/11858> ("ZDM, The International Journal of Mathematics Education", a journal that focuses each issue of a theme)

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rrme20/current> ("Research in Mathematics Education", a UK based journal)

There may be restrictions on what you can read for free, but increasingly articles are being published Open Access.

Checklist of things to do before arriving

- **Apply for Accommodation** - The Accommodation Office is accepting [applications](#) from offer-holders who are commencing study in September 2017. University accommodation is very popular and the deadline of the end of this month (**31 July 2017**) is fast approaching.
- **Accept your offer** - The earlier we know the more preparation we can do for your arrival. If you have not already done so please [respond](#) to your offer of study.
- **Apply for a Visa (*International Students only*)** - If you are an international applicant now is the time to apply for your Tier 4 visa. Unconditional offer holders who have paid a [deposit](#) can request a Certificate of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) number. The University of Bristol has an excellent [International Office](#) and our colleagues there have vast experience in offering applicants advice and support. Contact details are available on the link above and we would recommend making use of their expertise.
- **Meet Any Conditions of Offer** - We appreciate that conditional offer-holders will meet their conditions at different points throughout the application cycle. Please ensure that as soon as you have the documents to satisfy a condition of offer that you get in touch [with us](#). We will then update your application accordingly.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Graduate School of Education community!

With best wishes

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