

MSc Modern Applications of Mathematics
MRes Statistical Applied Mathematics

**POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

Department of Mathematical Sciences

Contents

1 Welcome to the Faculty of Science.....	4
1.1 <i>The Faculty of Science Graduate School.....</i>	4
2 Welcome to the Department of Mathematical Sciences.....	6
2.1 <i>The Department.....</i>	6
2.2 <i>Who's Who in the Department.....</i>	7
3 Resources	7
3.1 <i>Communications.....</i>	7
3.2 <i>Computing Resources</i>	8
4 Your MSc or MRes Programme	9
4.1 <i>Unit Choices.....</i>	10
4.2 <i>Unit choices for the MSc in Modern Applications of Mathematics (with or without placement)</i>	11
4.3 <i>Unit choices for MRes in Statistical Applied Mathematics.....</i>	16
4.4 <i>Summer Project: Dissertation (MA50187) or Thesis formulation report (MA50248).....</i>	18
4.5 <i>Guidelines on Preparation & Assessment of M level material for MA3/5 courses.....</i>	18
4.6 <i>Transferable skills.....</i>	20
4.7 <i>Public Understanding of Science.....</i>	20
5 Assessment.....	21
5.1 <i>Your programme and how you are assessed</i>	21
5.2 <i>Supplementary assessment.....</i>	24
5.3 <i>Feedback to students on assessment</i>	25
5.4 <i>External examiners</i>	27
5.5 <i>Word counts.....</i>	28
5.6 <i>Late submission of coursework.....</i>	28
5.7 <i>Individual mitigating circumstances.....</i>	29
5.8 <i>Referencing, plagiarism and cheating.....</i>	30
5.9 <i>Academic integrity training and test.....</i>	32
5.10 <i>Plagiarism detection and personal data.....</i>	33
5.11 <i>Procedures for Academic Appeals</i>	35
5.12 <i>How your programme is reviewed and monitored.....</i>	36

6 Getting the most out of your studies	36
6.1 Moodle.....	36
6.2 Personal tutor system	37
6.3 Academic study skills support and development.....	37
6.4 Building on your skills using Personal Development Planning....	38
6.5 Recognition for extra-curricular activities: The Bath Award.....	39
6.6 The Library	39
6.7 Computing facilities and IT skills	40
7 Student Representation.....	41
7.1 Feeding back your views to the University	41
7.2 Student Representatives.....	42
7.3 Students' Union Membership.....	44
7.4 Student Support.....	44
7.5 International Student Advice	46
8 General information.....	46
8.1 The Academic year 2016-17.....	47
8.2 University regulations for students.....	47
8.3 Registration status	48
8.4 Attendance Monitoring.....	48
8.5 Change in your circumstances.....	48
8.6 Health and safety.....	49
8.7 Data protection.....	50
8.8 Equalities and diversity	50
8.9 Advice for students with disabilities, long-term illness, and specific learning difficulties.....	51
8.10 Pregnancy and Maternity.....	52
8.11 Care Leavers and Estranged Students.....	52
8.12 Careers Service.....	52
9 Dealing with a problem involving the University	53
9.1 Complaints	53
9.2 Bullying, harassment and victimisation	54
9.3 Mediation	54

1 Welcome to the Faculty of Science



Welcome to the Faculty of Science at the University of Bath. I am delighted that you have chosen to pursue your postgraduate training with us. In some cases that means continuing from your previous studies at Bath, and you will be familiar with the campus and the staff. But for those of you electing to move to Bath from elsewhere, this will be an exciting new challenge. All of you will be embarking on a new phase in your lives and a move to a new style of thinking and learning inherent in postgraduate training; the Faculty of Science Graduate School is here to facilitate this transition. Above all, we want you all to succeed in your chosen course or research project, and that it should be an enriching and enjoyable experience. So do attend the induction events to meet the Graduate School team and to network with your peers. I look forward to meeting you all in the coming weeks.

Prof Sue Wonnacott, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

1.1 The Faculty of Science Graduate School

There are 6 departments within the Faculty of Science – Biology and Biochemistry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematical Science, Pharmacy and Pharmacology, and Physics. The Graduate School is the home for all postgraduate students engaged in research or taking taught Masters courses within the life sciences, physical sciences and mathematics. The Faculty has several interdisciplinary Research Centres, including the Centre for Extremophile Research (CER); the Centre for Mathematical Biology (CMB), the Centre for Regenerative Medicine (CRM) and Bath Institute for Complex Systems (BICS). These Centres foster cross-discipline interactions, both within and beyond the Faculty of Science, and support interdisciplinary postgraduate training programmes.

Role of the Graduate School

The Graduate School is responsible for supporting postgraduate students throughout their lifecycle at the University, from admission, through progression stages to submission and completion. It also provides a forum for formal and informal interdisciplinary exchanges, offering both academic and social activities. Generic skills training courses are provided by the Graduate Centre via the Graduate School.

Staff in the Graduate School

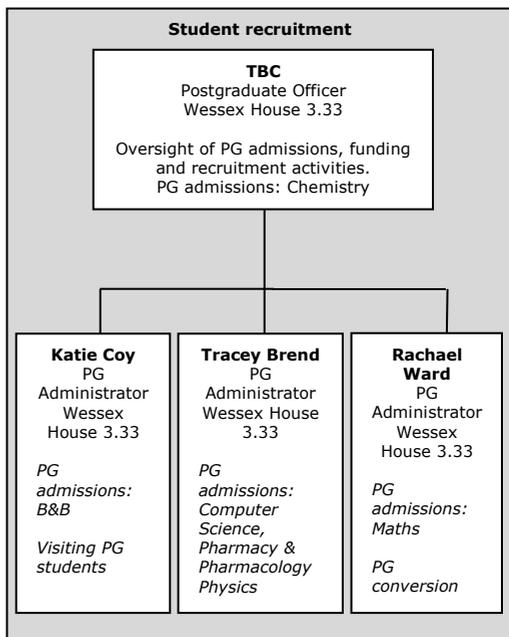
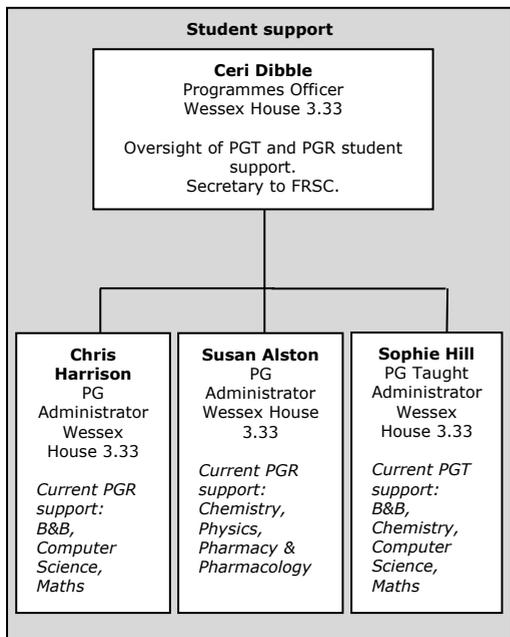
Location: Wessex House 3.33

Website: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/science/graduate-school/contact/> Email: fac-sci-gs-admin@bath.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1225 38 3410 (internal ext 3410)

Professor Sue Wonnacott
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies
4 South 0.44

Simon Gane
Graduate School Manager
Wessex House 3.35



2 Welcome to the Department of Mathematical Sciences

2.1 The Department

The Department of Mathematical Sciences is an integrated department, whose work in the three research areas of Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics and Statistics has a strong international reputation. Staff in all three areas are involved in a wide range of national and international research activities, and several members of the Department have won prestigious prizes, medals and research fellowships.

In the most recent Government-led assessment of Universities in the UK (REF 2014), 88% of our research in all areas (Pure and Applied Mathematics, Statistics and Probability) was rated world-leading/internationally excellent. The Department is listed 6th among UK universities in the Complete University Guide mathematics subject table for 2015, with the University placed 8th overall. We were one of only two departments in the country to achieve the top score of 24/24 in the Teaching Quality Assessment.

The Department welcomes research students (both full-time and part-time) working towards the degrees of PhD, Integrated PhD and MPhil. With 21 Professors and 37 other academic staff, a wide range of research topics can be supported in depth, and students with a good honours degree or equivalent will find much to enrich their scientific interests. Some research is of a fundamental theoretical nature, while much of the more applied work involves collaboration with other departments in the University, with industry and technology, and with government research departments.

The Pure and Applied Mathematics groups work on:

- Algebra and Geometry
- Analysis and Differential Equations
- Continuum Mechanics and Waves
- Industrial Applied Mathematics
- Mathematical Biology
- Mathematical Control Theory
- Numerical Analysis

The Statistics group covers a range of work on:

- Probability

- Statistics

Each of these research groups runs a regular seminar programme.

2.2 Who's Who in the Department

A staff list can be found at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/math-sci/contacts/> with contact details (email, phone, room) for all staff.

Head of Department

Prof Peter Morters

Director of Studies

(MSc Mathematical Sciences,
and
MRes Statistical Applied Mathematics)

Dr Hartmut Schwetlick

Senior Tutor

PGT Admissions Tutor

Department Coordinator

Prof Geoffrey Burton

Dr Mark Opmeer

Myla Dixon

Computer Support Manager

Computer Services Supporter

Adrian Hooper

Ade Olatokun

3 Resources

3.1 Communications

The primary point of contact for students on taught Masters courses is the **Graduate School**, which is responsible for overseeing the postgraduate student journey, from admission through to graduation. As some taught Masters courses have units in common with undergraduate programmes, you may need to address some queries to the **Department Office**, which supports our undergraduate programmes. If in doubt, please call the Graduate School office on 01225 383410 and we will advise.

Graduate School Office

The Graduate School administrative office (WH3.33) is open at the following times:

Monday to Thursday	9.00 am to 5.20 pm
Friday	9.00 am to 5.10 pm

Department Office

The Department of Mathematical Sciences Main Office/Reception (4W 2.13) is open at the following times:

Monday to Thursday	9.00 am to 5.20 pm
Friday	9.00 am to 5.10 pm

Pigeon holes

Mail received for postgraduate students is put in the postgraduate pigeon holes on level 4 of 4West. Students are responsible for checking their pigeon holes regularly as the Department cannot accept responsibility for any mail that is not collected.

The Department Office will keep back any cheques that arrive and put a note in your pigeon hole. This also applies to any registered mail or parcels that arrive.

Electronic Mail

Your Bath email address has two formats: [userid@bath.ac.uk](mailto:user@bath.ac.uk) or initials.surname@bath.ac.uk. The latter is generally preferred. So, for example, T Clark, who has user ID tc203, has the email addresses tc203@bath.ac.uk and T.Clark@bath.ac.uk.

Telephones

Telephones in the postgraduate rooms are available for project-related local/UK calls only. Within the University, calls can usually be made using the 4-digit extension number. To dial a number outside the University, the number "9" should be dialled first. Please consider other people when using telephones in shared offices. If you need to make an international call for your project, contact the Director of Studies.

3.2 Computing Resources

The department has a large range of computing equipment, of all shapes and sizes. Additional facilities are provided for the whole University by Computing Services (CS). Other sites in the UK can be accessed via the Joint Academic Network (JANet) and international connections can be made through the Internet. Email access is provided as standard.

Each student has access to Linux servers which provide a platform for scientific computing, both through the use of integrated computing environments such as MATLAB and also for programming in high-level languages. In addition the Department also has a Beowulf cluster consisting of a number of Linux PCs linked by a fast Ethernet. Access to a standard Microsoft Windows environment is also provided.

CS provide a number of central services. Amongst these are the teaching labs using SUN equipment and various PC's, the central SUN servers and the BIDS library database.

Computer Support

In the event of any problems, if you require further information, or more help on any subject, check the Computing Services webpages to see whether the information required is mentioned (<http://www.bath.ac.uk/bucs/>).

Hacking and Software Copyright

Unauthorised use of computer systems is a criminal offence. The University of Bath takes a strong line on such abuse. Such behaviour reflects very badly on the University, particularly since we have a leading research centre for cryptography and the detection of computer abuse on campus.

Penalties are medieval in their severity, and given our research expertise offenders are invariably caught. If you have any doubts about what you are doing, email support, who will advise.

Illegal copying of software is breach of copyright and theft. The Federation against Software Theft (FAST) is now very active and co-operates with the University in detecting this crime. Ensure you have authority to use any software before copying. If in doubt, email support for advice.

4 Your MSc or MRes Programme

The academic year is divided into two 14-week semesters, with each semester consisting of 11 weeks of teaching followed by a 2- or 3-week assessment period. A unit is an assessable block of study which may be in the form of a lecture course or an approved project.

A single unit should correspond to approximately 100 hours of study time. In the case of a lecture unit this usually comprises 16-24 one-hour lectures, plus one-hour problem classes/tutorials/practical classes and an element of private study.

For further information on Assessment Regulations, please look at section 5 of this handbook or go to <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt.pdf>

4.1 Unit Choices

Students must take a total of 90 credits for the award of MSc or MRes. 60 credits in taught units and 30 credits in the project.

All syllabus details are available on the web:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/2016-2017/ma/ma-proglist-pg.html>

There is an opportunity for students to select their units online before the start of term.

New full-time taught postgraduate students will be able to select units at the beginning of the academic year. For new students commencing their studies in 2015/16 the system for choosing units on-line will be available from **10.15am on Thursday 29 September 2016 to 5pm on Wednesday 5 October 2016** (note that the system will be unavailable between 08:00 and 10:15 each day).

You will be required to choose all of your semester 1 and 2 units during this period (60 taught credits in total). If you need to change any semester 1 units after Wednesday 5th October please speak to your Director of Studies in the first instance. You should then contact the Graduate School by email with the details of the units to be changed, making sure to copy the Director of Studies in. Please note that this may take a few days to take effect as units can fill up quickly so extra space may need to be organised for you. Changes to semester 2 units should also be referred to the Director of Studies in as per semester 1. These changes should take place no later than the second week of February.

Further guidance about unit choices is available on the website.

Change of Unit Choice

If you wish to make changes to the optional units you have chosen for the current academic year you must request form **CC FORM B** (Unit choice form)) from the Science Graduate School and discuss it with the Director of Studies.

At the discretion of the Director of Studies, it is possible to change the number of mathematical options and interdisciplinary options taken, according to each student's requirements.

4.2 Unit choices for the MSc in Modern Applications of Mathematics (with or without placement)

The taught phase of the programme runs from September to June (22 weeks of taught units), and the choice of units is divided into three parts:

- (i) Core Material;
- (ii) Mathematics Options; and
- (iii) Interdisciplinary Options.

The taught units include coursework and assignments aimed at furthering a student's understanding of the course material. All 6 units in the Core Material are compulsory, with the other 4 units being chosen from the Mathematics and Interdisciplinary Options. Usually, **2 units are chosen from the Mathematics Options and 2 units are chosen from the Interdisciplinary Options.**

In addition to the taught phase of the programme, there is a dissertation phase which runs from June to September:

- (iv) Dissertation.

Students are prepared for their dissertation during the compulsory unit MA50200 Project scoping.

(i) Core Material

This consists of the two main themes of Theory & Methods and Methods & Applications. Theory & Methods introduces ideas, methods and techniques of modern applied mathematics. Methods & Applications synthesize the key skills of theoretical understanding with problem identification and formulation for computational solution of real world problems.

Semester 1: Compulsory units

MA50174	Advanced numerical computation	6 Credits
MA50181	Mathematical Methods 1	6 Credits
MA40198	Applied statistical inference	6 Credits

Semester 2: Compulsory units

MA40177	Scientific computing	6 Credits
MA50176	Case studies in mathematical modelling and industrial mathematics	6 Credits
MA50200	Project scoping	6 Credits

NB. MA40198 and MA40177 are compulsory only for students who have not previously studied this unit (or an equivalent). Students who have previously studied either unit should take an additional optional unit. Please contact your Director of Studies for advice.

(ii) Mathematics Options

You must select a total of 24 credits of optional units from those available in Semester 1 and Semester 2 of this programme. If your undergraduate degree is in mathematics or statistics, only 12 of these credits should be chosen from the Mathematics Options; the remaining 12 credits should be chosen from the Interdisciplinary Options in section (iii) below. Otherwise, you may choose all 24 credits from the Mathematics Options.

All students may take no more than 15 credits of honours level units (i.e. units coded MA3*) during this programme.

List A1 (Masters level units in Mathematics in Semester 1)

MA40042	Measure theory & integration	6 Credits
MA40043	Real & abstract analysis	6 Credits
MA40045	Dynamical systems	6 Credits
MA40065	Viscous fluid mechanics	6 Credits
MA40092	Classical statistical inference	6 Credits
MA40171	Numerical solution of evolutionary equations	6 Credits
MA40197	Advanced mathematical biology	6 Credits
MA50125	Markov processes & applications	6 Credits
MA50183	Specialist reading course	6 Credits

MA50251	Applied stochastic differential equations	
ZZ50001	Director of Studies approved unit	6 Credits

List B1 (Honours level with Masters level counterparts in Semester 1)

All of the following units (except Medical Statistics) are available at both Honours and Masters level. You must ensure that you do not choose the same unit at both levels, and you may take no more than 15 credits of honours level units (i.e. units coded MA3*) during this programme.

MA30044	Mathematical methods 1	6 Credits
MA30046	Linear control theory	6 Credits
MA30047	Mathematical biology 1	6 Credits
MA30051	Numerical linear algebra	6 Credits
MA30084	Generalised linear models	6 Credits
MA30086	Medical statistics	6 Credits
MA30087	Optimisation methods of operational research	6 Credits
MA50046	Linear control theory	6 Credits
MA50084	Generalised linear models	6 Credits
MA50087	Optimisation methods of operational research	6 Credits
MA50178	Numerical linear algebra	6 Credits
MA50179	Mathematical biology 1	6 Credits
MA50181	Mathematical methods 1	6 Credits

List A2 (Masters level units in Mathematics in Semester 2)

MA40049	Elasticity	6 Credits
MA40050	Numerical optimisation and large-scale systems	6 Credits
MA40057	Functional analysis	6 Credits
MA40058	Probability with martingales	6 Credits
MA40189	Topics in Bayesian statistics	6 Credits
MA40239	Discrete probability	6 Credits
MA50061	Optimal control	6 Credits
MA50215	Specialist reading course	6 Credits
ZZ50005	Director of Studies approved unit	6 Credits

List B2 (Honours level with Masters level counterparts in Semester 2)

All of the following units (except Applied Statistics) are available at both Honours and Masters level. You must ensure that you do not choose the same unit at both levels, and you may take no more than 15 credits of honours level units (i.e. units coded MA3*) during this programme.

MA30059	Mathematical methods 2	6 Credits
MA30063	Mathematical biology 2	6 Credits
MA30085	Time series	6 Credits
MA30089	Stochastic processes & finance	6 Credits
MA30091	Applied statistics	6 Credits
MA30170	Numerical solution of elliptic PDEs	6 Credits
MA30245	Graphs and networks: theory and applications	6 Credits
MA50059	Mathematical methods 2	6 Credits
MA50063	Mathematical biology 2	6 Credits
MA50085	Time series	6 Credits
MA50089	Stochastic processes & finance	6 Credits
MA50170	Numerical solution of elliptic PDEs	6 Credits

(iii) Interdisciplinary Options

You must select a total of 24 credits of optional units from those available in Semester 1 and Semester 2 of this programme. If your undergraduate degree is in mathematics or statistics, you should choose 12 of these credits from the Interdisciplinary Options, with the remaining 12 credits from the Mathematics Options in section (ii) above.

List C1 (Interdisciplinary units in Semester 1)

Remember that you may take no more than 15 credits of honours level units (i.e. units coded MA3*) during this programme.

BB40128	The evolution of genetic systems	6 Credits
CM30072	Safety-critical computer systems	6 Credits
EE30031	Digital communications	6 Credits
EE30123	Power electronics & drives 1	6 Credits
EE40054	Digital image processing	6 Credits
EE40098	Computational intelligence	6 Credits

ME30032	Aerodynamics	6 Credits
ME40054	Computational fluid dynamics	6 Credits
ME40061	Biomechanics	6 Credits
ME40064	System modelling & simulation	6 Credits
ME50029	Control systems	6 Credits
ME50030	Structural mechanics	6 Credits
PH30028	Condensed matter physics 2	6 Credits
PH30031	Simulation techniques	6 Credits

List C2 (Interdisciplinary units in Semester 2)

Remember that you may take no more than 15 credits of honours level units (i.e. units coded MA3*) during this programme.

BB30169	Concepts in systems biology	6 Credits
BB40117	Microbial evolution - from the laboratory to nature	6 Credits
CH40039	Computational chemistry	3 Credits
CM30073	Advanced algorithms & complexity	6 Credits
CM30080	Computer vision	6 Credits
CM30173	Cryptography	6 Credits
CM30226	Logic and semantics of programming languages	6 Credits
CM30229	Intelligent control and cognitive systems	6 Credits
PH30057	Stellar & galactic astrophysics	6 Credits
PH30078	Magnetism	3 Credits
PH30079	Superconductivity	3 Credits
PH30087	Fluid dynamics	3 Credits
PH30094	Planetary physics	3 Credits
PH40073	Mathematical physics	6 Credits
PH40085	Nanoscience	6 Credits

(iv) Dissertation Phase

Compulsory Units

MA50187	Project	30 Credits
MA50244	Placement research project (placement students)	30 Credits

Summary of the Programme

All 6 units in the Core Material are compulsory, with the other 4 units being chosen from the Mathematics and Interdisciplinary Options, where typically 2 units are chosen from the Mathematics Options and two from the Interdisciplinary Options. These 4 optional units are to be taken over both semesters, but can be taken in any combination. Remember, however, that you may take no more than 15 credits at honours level across the programme.

4.3 Unit choices for MRes in Statistical Applied Mathematics

The taught section of the programme is divided into two parts: a two-semester taught unit 'Student-led symposia and integrative think tanks' and a number of single semester courses, some of which are compulsory. The taught units include coursework and assignments aimed at furthering a student's understanding of the course material.

In addition to the taught phase of the programme, there is a thesis formulation phase which runs from June to September. Here students develop the topic and approach to the research that they will carry out for the remainder of the SAMBa programme.

i. Compulsory Material

This consists of the Student-led symposia and integrative think tanks, in addition to several other core units. Some of these compulsory units can be taken in year 2 of the SAMBa programme.

Two-semester taught unit:

[MA50246](#) Student-led symposia and integrative think tanks 12 Credits

Semester 1: Compulsory Taught Units

[MA40198](#) Applied statistical inference 6 Credits

[MA50174](#) Advanced numerical computation 6 Credits

[MA50178](#) Numerical linear algebra 6 Credits

Semester 2: Compulsory Taught Units

MA50247	Bayesian and large scale methods	6 Credits
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And at least one of:

MA50250	Inverse problems, data assimilation and filtering	6 credits
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MA50170	Numerical solutions of elliptic PDEs	6 credits
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MA40177	Scientific computing	6 credits
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ii. Optional Material

Semester 1: Optional taught Units

Choose one of the units from the following list

MA30087	Optimisation methods of operational research	6 Credits
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MA30125	Markov processes & applications	6 Credits
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MA40045	Dynamical systems	6 Credits
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MA40092	Classical statistical inference	6 Credits
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MA40171	Numerical solution of evolutionary equations	6 Credits
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MA50183	Specialist reading course	6 Credits
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MA50183	Advanced mathematical biology	6 Credits
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MA50251	Applied stochastic differential equations	6 Credits
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ZZ50001	Director of Studies approved unit	6 Credits
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Semester 2: Optional taught Units

Choose two of the units from the following list

MA30089	Stochastic processes & finance	6 Credits
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MA40050	Numerical optimisation and large-scale systems	6 Credits
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MA40058	Probability with martingales	6 Credits
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MA40090	Multivariate data analysis	6 Credits
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MA40189	Topics in Bayesian statistics	6 Credits
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MA40239	Discrete probability	6 Credits
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MA50176	Case studies in mathematical modelling and industrial mathematics	6 Credits
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MA50215	Specialist reading course	6 Credits
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ZZ50005	Director of Studies approved unit	6 Credits
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Students must take at least 5 units in each semester.

Dissertation Period

Compulsory Units

[MA50248](#)

Thesis formulation report

30 Credits

4.4 Summer Project: Dissertation (MA50187) or Thesis formulation report (MA50248)

At the start of the second semester, the student should discuss choices with their academic tutor, who will suggest possible topics and supervisors. The student may him/herself suggest a suitable project, after consultation with a member of staff who agrees to be the supervisor. Details of the content of the project and the form of the dissertation, by which it will be assessed, should be available in a Project Specification, prepared by the supervisor in consultation with the student.

Two copies of the dissertation and a signed coversheet are to be handed in to the Graduate School (dissertation) or SAMBa office (thesis formulation project) by noon on 9 September 2016 (or on 9 December 2016 for the six month placement). Any report handed in after these dates may be awarded a zero assessment. For part-time students, timings and deadlines will vary according to circumstances. An electronic copy must also be sent to the library before you leave the University in September. This will be via a web-form with an upload function:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/library/services/eprints/taught-pg-dissertation.html>

4.5 Guidelines on Preparation & Assessment of M level material for MA3/5 courses

The MA5 versions of MA3 units should contain additional material at Masters (M) level with an additional element of 'summative' assessment (i.e. contributing to the final mark) to distinguish it from the MA3 level version of the unit. These notes give guidelines on how this should be achieved.

The basic principles are:

- a) MA5 students attend the MA3 lectures and take the MA3 exam (labelled MA5);
- b) MA3 assessment comprises 75% of the total MA5 mark;

- c) Additional M level material is learnt through independent study and assessed separately. This assessment contributes 25% of the total MA5 mark.

Additional Material

An important distinguishing feature of M level material is that it should be *learnt independently*. This material will normally be acquired through additional reading set by the lecturer. An element of supervision or 'formative' assessment (i.e. feedback, not contributing to the final mark) should be provided; for example, additional problems on existing sheets or an additional problem sheet.

It is left to the lecturer's discretion as to how (and when) the additional material is incorporated into the course, and what type of formative assessment is provided.

The quantity and difficulty of the additional material should roughly reflect its contribution to the total mark. As a suggested guideline, it should involve about 25 hours of work, leaving 75 hours to cover the MA3 level material. Note that this will usually place an additional requirement on Masters students: that they assimilate the MA3 level material in less than the 100 hours normally allotted for an undergraduate.

Additional Assessment

The summative assessment of the M level material may involve one (or more) of the following, as deemed appropriate by the lecturer:

- i. Coursework
- ii. Oral exam/presentation
- iii. Class test

At the beginning of the unit (before the deadline for student unit choices), the lecturer should provide students with a brief summary of the additional material (syllabus-style key words will suffice), and the approximate timing and mode of the additional assessment. A copy of this summary should be signed by the Checker and the Head of Group and approved by the MSc and MRes Director of Studies. A similar procedure applies for any assignments making up the summative portion of the additional assessment. NB. In the unit description, CW refers to all of i), ii) and iii). It is also recommended that the 25% CW element of assessment should not be exceeded and act as

a cap on the total amount of coursework undertaken by MA5 students (this being of relevance to MA3 courses that already have a coursework aspect).

4.6 Transferable skills

In addition to studying academic units, MSc and MRes students in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Bath receive training to develop transferable skills. There are five such sessions each semester, timetabled in the 3.15-4.05pm slot on days when the departmental Landscapes seminar is not running. Topics for these sessions include:

- Introduction to latex mathematical typesetting;
- How to work with industry;
- How to give a presentation;
- How to write a mathematics paper;

A detailed timetable for these sessions will be produced nearer the time (after the timetable for the Landscapes seminar is fixed). These sessions double up as the meetings of the unit MA50200 Project Scoping.

4.7 Public Understanding of Science

The Department of Mathematical Sciences is nationally recognised as a centre actively involved in promoting the public understanding of science. Two of the key events organised annually within the department are the *Masterclass series* and *Bath Taps Into Science*, both of which take place during the early spring.

The *Masterclass series* is aimed at Year 8 school children (12-13 year olds) who have shown interest and/or aptitude in mathematics. It involves a series of 6-8 Saturday morning workshops during which the children are exposed to new mathematical concepts, ideas or applications.

Bath Taps Into Science is an event open to the general public during Science Week, co-ordinated from the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Volunteers from the University, local schools and scientific companies set up stalls in central Bath to allow the public to explore a wide range of scientific phenomena including applied mathematics.

Students enrolled on the MSc or MRes programme are actively encouraged to participate in one of these activities, to present ideas to the public based on the role of mathematics in understanding real-world phenomena. This will not be included in the formal requirements of the MSc or MRes programmes.

5 Assessment

Important information

For full details of the NFAAR-PGT, visit:

www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm

For information relating to your programme, visit:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/>

This section summarises the University's assessment framework for the type of programme you are undertaking. It explains the regulations that govern assessment and outlines how the University makes decisions concerning students' progression through their programme and awards. Complete information is available in the NFAAR-PGT document.

The New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations

The New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations (NFAAR-PGT) specifies the rules governing students' progression from one stage of their programme to the next as well as for the award of degrees. The rules cover all areas of assessment, including supplementary assessment and the extent to which failure may be condoned. If you began the first stage of your programme in or after the 2011/12 academic year, NFAAR-PGT applies to you.

This section may contain terms unfamiliar to you. In addition to the explanations we give below you can find full definitions at www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-02.pdf.

If at any time you are in doubt about how NFAAR-PGT provisions apply to your work, please consult your Director of Studies.

5.1 Your programme and how you are assessed

Within your programme of study, there are *compulsory units*, (i.e. those units in a programme which must be taken by every student registered on

the programme), and *optional units* (i.e. those units you may choose from a range of options).

The *Your MSc or MRes Programme* section (section 4) earlier in this Handbook shows the structure of your programme.

Please note that you can also access this information via links in your programme's description in the Programme & Unit Catalogues available at: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/>

At the end of the table, there is a link to the relevant appendix of the NFAAR-PGT which states exactly how the assessment rules operate. Please note that you can also access this information via links in your programme's description in the Programme & Unit Catalogues available at: www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/.

The following points will help you to understand how the assessment rules relate to your specific programme, such as pass marks, averaging of marks and dealing with any failures:

Firstly, there are several references below to the persistent generic rules on the extent of any failures of units permitted overall. The rules are that you can only (1) fail and retrieve units, or (2) marginally fail units and have them condoned, **within set limits**. Breaking these rules results in failure of the programme.

- Your programme does not have any Designated Essential Units (DEUs).
- Your programme is divided into stages and follows the general principle that all stage assessment must be successfully completed before progression to the next stage is permitted. This means that, if you are required to undertake supplementary assessment, you will have to do so before you can progress further. You must also never break one of the persistent generic rules.
- Your programme has units that constitute the Taught Stage(s) Credits in a separate phase before the period in which you will do the Dissertation/Project type unit(s), as indicated in the table at the end of this section. The Programme Progression Requirement to get

from the taught phase of the MSc programmes to the dissertation/project phase is 50%. The Programme Progression Requirement to get from the taught phase of the MRes Statistical Applied Mathematics to the dissertation/project phase is 60%.

- Should you fail to qualify for the award of the degree of Master, you may be considered for the award of a related Postgraduate Diploma (subject to you having met the requirements for that award).

The normal pass mark for a unit is 40%. In some units, you might need to achieve a threshold mark in one or more component assessments in order to pass the unit overall. Particular rules apply to failure of units of the “taught” type, or in the “taught” stages. They are as follows:

- If you fail any units badly (i.e. achieve less than 35%), you will have to undertake supplementary assessment – unless you have failed so many units that you fail outright or the attempted retrieval would break the rule on how much failure can be retrieved.
- If you only fail units marginally (i.e. achieve 35%-39%), you might be able to progress without supplementary assessment. Whether you do progress will depend on the total credit value of the failed units.

Dissertation/project units have their own special rule on failure: only cases of marginal failure (i.e. 35%-39%) will be given permission for attempted retrieval through supplementary assessment, and any resubmission that is permitted for marginal failure must be made within a specified period. Ultimately, you must pass a dissertation/project unit (or have an average of at least 40% for them if there are more than one) for satisfactory completion of the requirements for dissertation/project elements.

Your unit results are combined as follows to make overall assessment/award decisions:

- The Taught Stage(s) Average (TSA) will be calculated by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for all units required to contribute to the taught stage(s), or by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for all units defined as of “Taught-type” required to contribute to the programme.
- The Dissertation/Project Average (DPA) will be calculated by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for the unit(s) required to contribute to the dissertation/project stage(s), or by taking the

credit-weighted average of marks for the unit(s) defined as of “Dissertation/project-type” required to contribute to the programme.

- The Overall Programme Average (OPA) will be calculated by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for all units required to contribute to the programme.

A Board of Examiners will decide at appropriate points whether you are continuing to meet the requirements for the programme (including not breaking persistent generic rules whereby you can only fail and retrieve, or marginally fail and have condoned, units within set limits), and/or whether you have met all the requirements for your target award or any alternative that might be available. The outcomes will depend on both your performance in individual units and your overall performance. Generally, if you pass each of your units, you will progress and, in due course, be recommended for an award.

If you fail units beyond certain credit values, or you fail some too badly, you might break one of the persistent generic rules whereby you can only fail and retrieve, or marginally fail and have condoned, units within set limits, and this will result in failure of the programme — without any opportunity for supplementary assessment. (Further information on supplementary assessment is provided below.)

The criteria for making awards with distinction or with merit are described in the relevant NFAAR-PGT rules (paras. 78-80).

5.2 Supplementary assessment

“Supplementary assessment” is the term normally used for an opportunity given to a student to retrieve failure before starting the next stage of a programme, or by the end of the programme if it is a single-stage programme or the failed units are not Stage Required Units (SRUs). It generally involves re-doing coursework or re-sitting an examination. Students undertaking supplementary assessments are likely to have to do so at the University in the summer re-sit examinations. For the 2016-17 academic year, this period will be 16 August to 25 August 2017. Each unit’s method of supplementary assessment is shown in the Unit catalogue on the web.

As supplementary assessment, students will normally have the opportunity to gain credit for units then successfully passed and to have the mark gained reported to them for feedback purposes, but a maximum mark of 40% will be awarded and used in the overall stage average, the overall programme average, the taught-stage(s) average, and any award calculation.

In units where the original assessment is a written examination for a mathematics or statistics unit, supplementary (also referred to as mandatory extra work) takes the form of having to resit the same examination that the student failed, except that ALL questions must be submitted. In such cases the pass mark is 70% and a mark below 60% is considered a bad fail. For units administered by other departments, please check with the relevant department.

If you pass all your supplementary assessments, you will be able to progress onto the next stage of your programme and/or, as appropriate, be considered for an award. If you do not pass them all, the outcome will depend on your overall performance including consideration of the rules about passing particular types of units and the persistent generic rules (as set out above).

5.3 Feedback to students on assessment

Policy on Feedback on Assessed Work 2016-17

Pedagogical Rationale

Fundamental ideas in Mathematics can be difficult to comprehend and digest for future application. We believe that mastery of these ideas can only be achieved reliably with study over an extended period by working on problems that exercise these ideas. Our policies are designed to provide students the opportunity to grapple with these ideas and give feedback that channels and reinforces this effort. We aim to help students learn the practice of Mathematics and this requires the active participation of both student and teacher. We believe that formative assessment is the best way to provide feedback. Summative assessment in the form of exams is primarily for judging student achievement and not for providing feedback.

Examinations

Many units in Mathematics are assessed solely by examination. Five years (where available) of past examination papers with worked solutions will be

made available via the Library website. We do not grant automatic access to marked examination scripts. However, personal tutors may provide individual feedback to students on where marks were lost in cases where results are unexpectedly poor.

Staff Responsibilities

- Personal tutors will advise students on examination skills including assessment criteria.
- Lecturers will make clear, at the start of the unit, the format and style of any examination to be used.
- Personal Tutors will obtain and show to their tutee relevant marked examination scripts when a special case for access to these has been made.

Student Responsibilities

- Students will develop their examination skills by participation in tutorials and making use of published resources.

Coursework

Some units are partially assessed by coursework. A few units are entirely assessed by coursework.

Staff Responsibilities

- A detailed specification of the assignment and of the examiner's intentions, including an explicit estimate of the time that average students are expected to devote to it.
- An estimate of the total number of marks allocated and, if the assignment is in several parts, the relative weights of these parts.
- The conditions under which an assignment is to be attempted, e.g. in scheduled sessions or own time, and whether or not the examiner, tutors other lecturers or students may be consulted.
- The date on which the assignment is set (i.e. available to students) and the time and date by which it must be submitted.
- Coursework will normally be marked in adequate time for students to reflect on the feedback received. Students should either have the opportunity to examine marked coursework or to receive feedback on their performance. For coursework due near the end of the semester, it may not be possible to provide individual feedback before the examination.

Student responsibilities

- Students will submit work to the department office before the specified deadline.
- Students will read and digest the feedback given.

Formative Assessment

Every unit where the sole form of assessment is a final examination (i.e. most units in Mathematical Sciences) will have regular formative assessments in a form appropriate to the material.

Staff Responsibilities

- Staff will provide problem sheets, exercises and other tutorial material suitable to the unit on a regular basis.
- Staff will provide solutions to items of formative assessment. The solutions may be provided on paper, online or demonstrated within tutorials
- Formative assessments will be marked by the lecturer or by a tutor and returned in a timely manner sufficient for the student to benefit from the feedback received. Typically this will occur about one week after submission but no longer than three semester weeks after submission.

Student Responsibilities

- Students will attempt problem sheets provided and hand them in before the stated deadline
- Students will attend and participate in tutorials
- Students will collect marked and reflect upon the feedback provided

Placements

Students are required to provide a written report and make a presentation on their return from placement.

Staff Responsibilities

- The personal tutor, the industrial training tutor and the placements officer will read the placement report. Some feedback will be provided.
- Staff supervising the placement conference will provide feedback to students on presentations

Student Responsibilities

- The student will write and submit before the deadline a report on the placement.
- The student will prepare and deliver a presentation on their placement activities.

5.4 External examiners

The University attaches great importance to the role of External Examiners as a key means of assuring that academic standards are at an appropriate

level, comparable to those of other higher education institutions and that assessment processes are rigorous and fair. External examiners also make a valuable contribution to the enhancement of programmes.

It is inappropriate for students to make direct contact with External Examiners, in particular regarding their individual performance in assessments. The sections of this Handbook on “Procedures for Academic Reviews (Appeals) ” and “Dealing with a Problem Involving the University/Complaints” explain what to do if you are dissatisfied in this respect and are considering a formal or informal complaint or appeal. The section on “Student Representation” sets out how students can engage formally with the quality management process through which institutions consider and respond to External Examiners’ comments and suggestions.

You can read the latest External Examiner’s report for your programme at www.bath.ac.uk/quality/externalinput/external-examiners-reports.bho/index.html

5.5 Word counts

Written coursework tasks will normally have a word range or limit. This is in order to give an indication of the depth and detail of work required, and to ensure that students’ submitted work is comparable. You will be required to declare the word count for your work when submitting it for assessment.

If you do not observe the given word range or limit for the coursework task, for example if you exceed the word limit, then a penalty will be applied. The penalty that would apply should be stated in writing when the assignment task is distributed. You should take note of what is included when calculating the total word count (e.g. whether or not contents pages, appendices, footnotes, bibliographies and other elements that are not part of the main text are included).

You should check with your Director of Studies if you have questions about word counts and penalties.

5.6 Late submission of coursework

You will be expected to hand in all assessed coursework and dissertations/projects by a specified date and time. This is to ensure fairness to all students who are submitting work.

If there are valid circumstances preventing you from meeting a deadline, your Director of Studies may grant you an extension to the specified submission date. Forms to request an extension are available from your Department. You will need to provide a description of the circumstances which you feel support your request. Your Director of Studies may ask you to produce supporting evidence.

Please note that:

- if you submit a piece of work after the submission date, and no extension has been granted, the maximum mark possible will be the pass mark
- if you submit work more than five working days after the submission date, you will normally receive a mark of 0 (zero), unless you have been granted an extension.

It is not usually possible to mark coursework anonymously if it is submitted after the deadline.

It is important that you speak to your Director of Studies as soon as possible if you become concerned about your submission deadlines.

5.7 Individual mitigating circumstances

Individual Mitigating Circumstances (IMCs) are the conditions which temporarily prevent you from undertaking assessment or significantly impair your performance in assessment. As such, the measure of their severity is not about impact on you, but the impact on your affected assessment.

Full information and guidance on Individual Mitigating Circumstances and Assessment is available at: www.bath.ac.uk/registry/imc/imc-students.html
It is strongly advised that you become familiar with the available guidance so that you understand the process and timescales should such circumstances arise.

Definitions of IMCs can be found in "What are Individual Mitigating Circumstances?"

www.bath.ac.uk/registry/imc/documents/what-are-imcs.pdf

You should make yourself familiar with these definitions, in addition to any IMC guidance offered by your Department, and support and guidance offered through the Student Disability Advice Team (www.bath.ac.uk/groups/disability-service/) or the Students' Union Advice and Representation Centre (www.bathstudent.com/advice/).

Your Department/School will be able to advise you on how to submit an IMC claim, and your Director of Studies can help you to understand the potential implications of your IMC claim on your overall progress and/or award, in light of your academic achievement to date and the assessment regulations for your programme.

Should you wish any IMCs to be taken into account by the Board of Examiners for Programmes when considering your progression or award classification, notify your Director of Studies no more than three days after the affected assessment by completing the IMC report form available at: www.bath.ac.uk/registry/imc/imc-students.html

You will also need to submit evidence of how your circumstances affected the relevant assessment(s), for example, a medical certificate in the case of illness or injury.

If you know of a potential IMC that may affect your assessment before you begin an assessment period, it is important that you notify your Director of Studies/Programme Leader in advance. Note that if you do intend to submit a formal IMC claim for the affected assessment(s), you will still need to complete the form and follow procedures.

5.8 Referencing, plagiarism and cheating

Presenting work that is not your own for assessment constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when a student 'borrows' or copies information, data, or results from an unacknowledged source, without quotation marks or any indication that the presenter is not the original author or researcher.

Another form of plagiarism (and hence cheating) is auto-plagiarism or self-plagiarism. This occurs when a student submits work (whether a whole piece or part of a piece) without acknowledging that they have used this material for a previous assessment.

If you use someone else's pre-existing work – say, by summarising it or quoting from it – you must reference the original author. This applies to all

types of material – not only text, but also diagrams, maps, tables, charts, and so on. Be sure to use quotation marks when quoting from any source (whether original or secondary). Fully reference not only quotations, but also paraphrases and summaries. Such references should then be included in a bibliography or reference list at the end of the piece of work. Note that the need for referencing also applies to web-based material; appropriate references according to the type of work or image should always be given.

There are several acceptable methods of referencing material. Examples include the Harvard system and the Numeric system. Ask your Director of Studies or Personal Tutor for further information and advice on the referencing system used on your programme.

Guidance concerning referencing and plagiarism is available from several sources, in addition to staff in the Department. They include:

- online student support and resources at:
www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/academic/academic-integrity/index.html
- the Library at: www.bath.ac.uk/library/infoskills/referencing-plagiarism/ and courses run by library staff
- the Students' Union Skills Training programme:
www.bathstudent.com/skills-training/
- courses delivered by the Academic Skills Centre: www.bath.ac.uk/asc

Any student who is found to have used unfair means in an examination or assessment procedure will be penalised. 'Unfair means' here include:

- cheating (for example, unauthorised use of notes or course material in an examination)
- fabrication (for example, reporting on experiments that were never performed)
- falsification (for example, misrepresentation of the results of experimentation)
- plagiarism (as discussed above)
- self-plagiarism (duplication of one's own work, as discussed above)
- unfair collaboration or collusion (representation of work produced in collaboration with another person or persons as the work of a single candidate).

The University's QA Code of Practice, QA53 Examination and Assessment Offences, sets out the consequences of committing an offence and the penalties that might be applied.

Penalties for unfair practice will be determined by the Department or by the Faculty/School Board of Studies. They may include failure of the assessment unit or part of a degree, with no provision for reassessment or retrieval of that failure. Proven cases of plagiarism or cheating can also lead to an Inquiry Hearing or disciplinary proceedings. Claims of inadvertence or ignorance will not be accepted as a basis for mitigation of a penalty.

If you are accused of an offence, the Students' Union's welfare services are available to support you when your case is being examined.

5.9 Academic integrity training and test

All students registered on an award at the University are required to undertake training and a test aimed at providing a common baseline of knowledge and understanding of good academic writing practice. This includes an understanding of plagiarism and other assessment offences, and the skills necessary to reference your work appropriately.

You will find an online tutorial and test, for this purpose, on Moodle at <http://moodle.bath.ac.uk/>.

Once you have accessed Moodle using your username and password, clicking on the link entitled Academic Integrity Initiative will take you to the training module and test. The training can also be accessed directly at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/BathEpigeum/epigeum2011.bho/index.html>

If you do not have access to your own Department / School's online test in Moodle, please contact your Programme Administrator via your Faculty / School Office.

When you have completed the training tutorial – perhaps a couple of times - and are confident that you have understood it, you should undertake the mandatory test of understanding.

Your Director of Studies will inform you about the arrangements for the training and the test. To pass the test you will need to achieve a mark of 85%.

If you do not pass the test, you will need to re-visit the training and/or look at the other guidance available to you via the Student Skills site - www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/academic/index.html - or as required by your Director of Studies, and then re-take the test.

You can take the test as many times as necessary until you pass.

You will not be able to progress beyond the next progression point in your studies, irrespective of your programme marks, until you pass this test. Ultimately this means that, if you have not passed the test, you will not be able to receive your award. Your Director of Studies will be able to confirm when the next progression point occurs for your stage of your programme.

Once you have passed the test it will be assumed that you understand the concept of plagiarism and its consequences. Therefore, after this point, if you are found to have plagiarised in your work, you will not be able to claim ignorance of plagiarism or its consequences in mitigation.

Further information

Academic integrity:

www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/academic/academic-integrity/index.html

5.10 Plagiarism detection and personal data

When you hand in a piece of assessed coursework, you will be expected to make a declaration that the work is your own and, where you have re-used your own work and/or used other sources of information, that you have referenced the material appropriately.

The University uses the JISC Plagiarism Detection Service, Turnitin. This service checks electronic, text-based submissions against a large database of material from other sources and for each submission, produces an 'originality report'. It makes no judgement on the intention behind the inclusion of unoriginal work; it simply highlights its presence and links to the original source.

The service complies with European Data Protection legislation. When you registered with the University, you gave it permission to process your personal data for a variety of legitimate purposes. This includes allowing the

University to disclose such data to third parties for purposes relating to your studies. The University, at its sole discretion, may submit the work of any student to the Plagiarism Detection Service (in accordance with Regulation 15.3e) and may make, or authorise third parties to make, copies of any such work for the purposes of:

- i. assessment of the work;
- ii. comparison with databases of earlier work or previously available works to confirm the work is original;
- iii. addition to databases of works used to ensure that future works submitted at this institution and others do not contain content from the work submitted.

The University will not make any more copies of your work than are necessary, and will only retain these for so long as remains necessary, for these purposes.

Please note that, if at any time the University submits any of your work to the JISC Plagiarism Detection Service, the service will be provided with, and will retain, certain personal data relating to you – for example, your name, email address, programme details and the work submitted. Such data may be transferred by the Plagiarism Detection Service to countries worldwide (some of which may not be governed by EU Data legislation) in order for the work to be checked and an originality report generated in accordance with the proper workings of the Plagiarism Detection Service. Personal data is retained indefinitely by the JISC Plagiarism Service upon submission of work. You may ask for your personal data to be removed by contacting the University's Data Protection Officer.

Further information

The University's procedures on Examination and Assessment Offences (QA53) are described at:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/quality/documents/QA53.pdf>

Regulation 15, Assessment of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/regulations/Regulation15.pdf>

University's Data Protection Officer: 4 West 3.5 (dataprotection-queries@lists.bath.ac.uk).

5.11 Procedures for Academic Appeals

Students wishing to submit a request for an academic appeal should refer to Regulation 17 (Conduct of Student Academic Appeals and Reviews): www.bath.ac.uk/regulations/Regulation17.pdf

You are also strongly advised to read the online guidance provided by the Academic Registry: www.bath.ac.uk/registry/appeals
Independent advice about academic appeals is offered by the Students' Union Advice and Representation Centre: www.bathstudent.com/advice

Regulation 17.16 outlines how students may appeal against formal Board of Studies decisions in respect of one or more of the following:

- i) the student's suitability to progress from one stage of the programme of studies to the next
- ii) the student's suitability to remain on the programme of study
- iii) the marks/grades, degrees, certificates or diplomas, and the classifications/grades awarded to the student.

The regulation also sets out the grounds on which an appeal can be based. Please note that:

- dissatisfaction with a mark or set of marks, or any other aspect of the properly exercised academic judgement of the examiners, will not of itself be acceptable as a valid ground for an academic appeal (Regulation 17.1)
- students who have concerns about assessment outcomes that have not yet been approved by a Board of Studies should seek advice in the first instance from their Director of Studies. This may include matters such as suspecting errors in the totalling or transcription of marks/grades, or wishing to seek clarification about the marking process (Regulation 17.2).

All academic appeals must be submitted within the timescales set out in Regulation 17. Students must provide the required information and evidence, including a completed AA1 form. The form and further academic appeals guidance are available at: www.bath.ac.uk/registry/appeals

Student Complaints are dealt with under separate procedures: www.bath.ac.uk/regulations/Appendix1.pdf

If you are uncertain as to whether your concerns are a potential academic appeal or a student complaint, please refer to the guidance at: www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/complaints/index.html

5.12 How your programme is reviewed and monitored

The University has a number of mechanisms for ensuring that programmes remain up-to-date, issues are dealt with and improvements made.

All programmes and units are monitored annually, looking at what is working well and identifying any actions that need to be taken. Student feedback, including feedback given through unit evaluation and other student surveys, is a key part of unit and programme monitoring.

Departments also conduct a review of their programmes every five years, known as a 'Degree Scheme Review' (DSR). A DSR is an in-depth process for reviewing and developing programmes, led by a review panel that includes at least one member external to the University. Students take part in DSRs as members of review panels, through the consideration of student feedback during the review, and where possible through a meeting of the review panel with a group of students from the programme.

Further information

Annual Monitoring of Units and Programmes:

www.bath.ac.uk/quality/documents/QA51.pdf

Degree Scheme Reviews: www.bath.ac.uk/quality/documents/QA13.pdf

6 Getting the most out of your studies

6.1 Moodle

Moodle is the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) used at the University of Bath. It is used by academic departments to support learning and teaching at programme and unit level. It provides a platform for the delivery of resources and online activities, and can also support student interaction and collaboration.

<http://moodle.bath.ac.uk>

6.2 Personal tutor system

On entry to the University, you will be assigned a Personal Tutor who will help you to get the best out of your university experience. Your Personal Tutor will:

- support you in your academic progress and personal development
- discuss with you programme choices, placement opportunities and future career plans
- provide you with a reference for your placement or career
- guide you to sources of expert help with any personal/welfare issues.

You should expect to meet with your Personal Tutor on at least three occasions in your first semester at the University and at least once per semester thereafter. This enables you both to get to know each other such that you can raise any issues with your tutor and your tutor can support you fully through your programme. It is important that you attend scheduled meetings with your Personal Tutor and let them know in advance if you cannot attend. Many of these meetings may be in small groups but you can also request a personal, one-to-one meeting at any time.

If you should have reason to wish to change your Personal Tutor please contact your Director of Studies to discuss the matter.

6.3 Academic study skills support and development

The University provides a broad range of opportunities to help you enhance your academic, study and communication skills so that you can achieve the best results from your academic study and prepare for your future career. This provision is free of charge and open to all University of Bath students. It includes:

- subject-specific academic study skills support as part of your academic programme
- an Academic Skills Programme available to all students at all levels, including classes in:
 - academic writing
 - critical reading
 - presentation skills
 - seminar skills

- one-to-one tutorials and writing workshops through the Writing Centre
- online self-study resources
- courses to enhance English language proficiency for non-native speakers
- foreign language classes through the Foreign Languages Centre (FLC)
- self-access language practice through the Self Access Language Centre (SALC)
- academic integrity (how to avoid plagiarism)
- mathematics and statistics support through the Mathematics Resources Centre (MASH)
- information and referencing skills through the Library
- Students' Union Skills Training Programme
- IT skills through Computing Services
- employability skills, including CV writing and interview techniques, through the Careers Service.

Further information

You can find out more about the support we offer to help you study effectively and make the most of your time here by visiting: www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/academic/index.html

- Academic Skills Programme: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/asc/for-current-students/index.html>
- Writing Centre: www.bath.ac.uk/asc/writing-centre/
- Foreign Languages Centre: Students' Union Skills Training programme: www.bathstudent.com/skills-training/
- www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/academic/languages/index.html
- Self-Access Language Centre: www.bath.ac.uk/salc/
- Mathematics Resources Centre: www.bath.ac.uk/study/mash/
- Library: www.bath.ac.uk/library/
- Computing Services: <http://go.bath.ac.uk/computing-services>
- Careers Service: www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/

6.4 Building on your skills using Personal Development Planning

Personal Development Planning (PDP) is a process of recording and reflecting on your skills and experience which will help you to plan for your personal, educational, and career development. The University provides information and tools to guide you through the process.

Further information

www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/academic/personal-development-planning/index.html

6.5 Recognition for extra-curricular activities: The Bath Award

Personal Development Planning (PDP) is an important element of The Bath Award. The Bath Award recognises and accredits the skills and achievements of students engaged in all types of extra-curricular activities. It operates alongside your degree programme and aims to capture the extra-curricular achievements at University that you will find valuable in your future life and career.

Further information

www.bathstudent.com/bathaward/

6.6 The Library

The Library is open 24 hours a day and provides print and electronic materials and information services to support study and research across the University. It houses over 520 networked workstations, wireless networking and laptop docking points and provides areas for both quiet individual study and group work. The Library's copy and print service includes black and white and colour photocopying, laser printing and scanning. Charges are kept as low as possible.

Information specialists, known as Subject Librarians (see the Department's Library resources page below), are responsible for services to individual Departments and Schools. They provide individual help to students and staff, as well as teaching information skills. All new students receive library introduction sessions during the induction period.

Further information

This Department's Library resources page is:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/library/subjects/math-sci/index.html>

For information on all library services and resources, please see www.bath.ac.uk/library/

6.7 Computing facilities and IT skills

You will have been issued with a unique username and password to register online. This forms your email address (username@bath.ac.uk) and once registered, you can use one of the thousand or so Computing Services student access workstations anywhere on campus. These enable you to use email, the internet, file storage, Office programs such as word processing and often give access to the more complex software used on your programme. All computers print to photocopiers in the Library and around the campus, for which there is a charge per page.

With your username and password you can also register your own laptop, smartphone or similar for connection to the campus wireless network (which covers communal areas, the Library, cafés and similar) or to around 150 student docking ports.

Support is available from the IT Service Desk on Level 2 of the Library or online at <http://go.bath.ac.uk/computing-services>
Tutorials and FAQs are provided in the self-help section.

If you have a disability or learning difficulty, Computing Services can support you with your computing needs. An Assistive Technologist is available to provide advice and support. Additional resources available include a purpose-built room, specialist software, and computer hardware, including laptops for loan.

The IT shop in the Library stocks popular products such as academic software, DVDs, network cables and headsets. You can order many further IT products through the shop. Prices are often lower than in high street shops.

You can also borrow technology from the Service Desk in support of your studies, for example: audio recorders, video cameras, projectors, laptops etc.

Accessing university email

The University will often communicate with you about a range of important matters including registration, unit-enrolment, assessment, and degree ceremonies, and matters such as tuition fees, via your University email account. So that you do not miss out on (and as a consequence fail to act on) important information, it is a University Regulation requirement

(Regulation 1.3) that you access your University email account regularly, even if you are out on placement or study abroad. **You therefore have a responsibility to ensure that your University email account can receive incoming mail and that you read your email regularly.**

Further information

Computing Services: <http://go.bath.ac.uk/computing-services>

E-learning: www.bath.ac.uk/e-learning/

Information for new users: <http://go.bath.ac.uk/newusers>

Information for users with a disability or learning difficulty: <http://go.bath.ac.uk/assistive-technologies>

IT shop: <http://go.bath.ac.uk/ITshop>

Computing Services Twitter Feed: @UniofBathIT

7 Student Representation

7.1 Feeding back your views to the University

The University is committed to reviewing and continually improving its practice. The main ways in which we seek feedback are through:

- (a) Staff / Student Liaison Committees (SSLCs)
- (b) surveys
- (c) the Students' Union.

We also use focus groups, departmental working parties, and various kinds of feedback session.

You can get actively involved in determining how your educational and student experiences are organised by becoming active in the Students' Union or by letting your Department know that you are interested in contributing.

Every Department has a formal system so that all students can comment routinely, in confidence and anonymously on the learning experience they have received. Such comments help us to check that:

- you have a clear idea of the aims and requirements of each unit you study
- our teaching is effective and stimulating
- the advice and feedback we provide on your work is helpful

- our resources are adequate.

For each unit you have studied, you will be asked to complete a short online unit evaluation. You will also be asked to complete surveys periodically on your experience of the programme as a whole. Please complete each evaluation fully, thoughtfully, and candidly. In particular, please tell us not only your opinion but also the reasons behind your opinion.

When we receive responses to evaluations, we analyse them – especially the positive suggestions for change and concerns that are voiced. Reports of unit evaluations are uploaded to Moodle for you to see. Student feedback and the resulting actions are taken into consideration in annual monitoring of units and programmes. Survey results are discussed at committees where student representatives have the opportunity to input to action plans developed in response to the issues raised.

Your feedback is important to both the University and the Students' Union. Please keep telling us what is going well and what needs to get better. We will communicate how your comments on your units and programme, and the wider student experience, have been acted upon. The Students' Union has an initiative called Ideas to Action which you can use to put forward ideas to improve your Students' Union or the University, and enables you to work with the Students' Union on the changes you want to see. The Ideas to Action web page (www.bathstudent.com/ideastoaction/) provides more information.

7.2 Student Representatives

As a student of the University you are automatically a member of the Students' Union (although you have a right to opt out - see section below on Students' Union Membership). Officers of the Students' Union represent students' interests on University decision-making bodies. In addition, numerous elected student representatives play important roles on various Departmental, Faculty/School and University committees. All student representatives are elected through Students' Union online elections.

There are many opportunities for elected student representatives. If you are elected by fellow students to serve on Departmental, Faculty/School or University committees you will be expected to represent the views of your fellow students and provide feedback following meetings:

<p>Departmental level:</p>	<p>Each Department has at least one Departmental SSLC. These comprise six or more elected student members, known as Academic Reps, and an equal or smaller number of staff members. Academic Reps are elected at the beginning of every year through online elections. Their role involves collecting the views of the students on their programme and attending SSLCs where they represent these views to their Department.</p> <p>Each SSLC produces an Annual Overview Report briefly outlining their work and highlighting good practice, the key themes explored and the actions that have been taken as a result. The Students' Union reviews all these reports and prepares a summary report for the University highlighting issues which need to be addressed by the institution as a whole.</p> <p>There is also provision for student membership of the Department Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee: normally one undergraduate and one postgraduate (taught) representative.</p> <p>Academic Reps attend the Academic Council, as well as Faculty / School Forums, of the Students' Union. These meet, alternatively, every three weeks during semester time in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keep Students' Union Officers and fellow Academic Reps informed of academic developments throughout the University • discuss common problems and interests affecting Departments • gather student opinions and views to be used by the University and the Students' Union • update Academic Reps on key issues. <p>Do feel free to approach your student Academic Reps at any time to inform them of good practice or areas for enhancement in your units and programme. This is normally the person who represents your year or degree scheme on the Departmental SSLC.</p>
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Faculty/ School level:	<p>Four student representatives (two undergraduates, one postgraduate taught and one postgraduate research) are elected as Faculty Reps to sit on a number of Faculty/School level committees such as the Faculty/School Board of Studies, Learning and Teaching Quality Committees, and Research Students Committees. The Board makes most decisions in relation to teaching and research and reports to Senate. The Faculty/School Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee considers all matters relating to taught programmes across the Departments within the Faculty and makes recommendations to the Faculty/School Board of Studies. Faculty Reps are also members of the Students' Union Academic Exec Committee.</p>
University level:	<p>University committees with student representation include the Council/Senate/Students' Union; the University Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee; University Research Students' Committee; the Programmes and Partnership Approval Committee and Senate.</p>

If you are interested in representing student views at Faculty/School or University level, please contact the Students' Union: academicreps@bath.ac.uk

7.3 Students' Union Membership

All students registered with the University are automatically given membership of the Students' Union however you have the right not to be a member. For further information on opting out of this membership, please go to the Code of Practice for the Students' Union: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/university-secretary/guidance-policies/codeofpracticebusu.html>

7.4 Student Support

Most students find there are occasions when it can help to talk to someone about a personal problem or issue. In many cases your Personal Tutor, Director of Studies, or Resident Tutor will be able to help. However, sometimes more specialist help is needed. The University has a range of professional support services that you can approach directly. Your two main

contact points are Student Services at the Roper Centre in 4 West and the Advice and Representation Centre in the Students' Union.

Student Services

Student Services can provide advice and support on a range of issues including disability, money advice, counselling and mental health, and visa queries. The Resident Tutors are also based in the Roper Centre. Individual appointments and 'drop-in' sessions are available.

Student Services can also provide letters confirming student status for a variety of purposes, which can be requested by logging on to Registration online: www.bath.ac.uk/registration-on-line/

The Roper Student Services Centre in 4 West is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm throughout the year (10am to 4pm in vacations), tel: 01225 385538.

The Helpdesk can also be contacted via the Student Services Helpdesk tab on your personal student record 'SAMIS' page or by email: studentservices@bath.ac.uk.

For the full range of Student Services see: go.bath.ac.uk/student-services

The Students' Union Advice and Representation Centre

The Students' Union Advice and Representation Centre provides information for students on a range of topics affecting their education and welfare, including advice for students wanting to submit individual mitigating circumstances claims or to change their programme, or experiencing problems with their programme. The staff in the Advice and Representation Centre also offer support, information and representation at academic appeals, academic misconduct and disciplinary hearings, and information and advice on a wide range of issues which affect students including housing and welfare issues.

The Students' Union Advice and Representation Centre is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm in term time (from 10am on Fridays) and 10am to 4pm during vacations; tel: 01225 386906, email: suadvice@bath.ac.uk

The Advice and Representation Centre also supports the Diversity and Support groups – details of which can be found at: www.bathstudent.com/advice/student-groups/

The Students' Union webpage provides the facility for students to report incidents of harassment, discrimination or bullying. Incidents can be reported anonymously if preferred. Details of how to report an incident are available at: www.bathstudent.com/report-an-incident/

For the full range of services see: www.bathstudent.com/advice/

Further information and contacts

A guide to the wide variety of support and information available to students can be found at: www.bath.ac.uk/student and the Students' Union website: www.bathstudent.com

This includes essential information on medical services and security and other facilities such as the Chaplaincy.

7.5 International Student Advice

The Student Immigration Service provides a tailored pre-arrival and induction programme and advice and support for all international students, including a 'check and send' service if you need to send a Tier 4 visa application to the Home Office. The Service offers workshops, a 'drop in' service, advice via email, phone and web-based platforms, or individual appointments can be made through the Helpdesk in The Roper Student Services Centre, 4 West.

Further information

www.bath.ac.uk/groups/student-immigration-service/

University-wide induction and welcome events are organised for incoming exchange students in the first week of each semester.

Further information

www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/studying-at-bath-as-an-erasmus-exchange-or-visiting-student/

For students who join outside of the standard semester dates, induction and welcome events are organised by the relevant Department.

8 General information

8.1 The Academic year 2016-17

Semester 1

Event	Dates
New student arrivals	Saturday 24 September 2016 - Sunday 25 September 2016
Induction and Freshers' Week	Monday 26 September 2016 - Sunday 2 October 2016
Semester 1	Monday 3 October 2016 - Friday 16 December 2016
Semester 1 vacation	Monday 19 December 2016 - Friday 6 January 2017
Semester 1	Monday 9 January 2017 - Friday 27 January 2017

Semester 2

Event	Dates
Semester 2	Monday 6 February 2017 - Friday 7 April 2017
Semester 2 vacation	Monday 10 April 2017 - Friday 21 April 2017
Semester 2	Monday 24 April 2017 - Friday 2 June 2017

8.2 University regulations for students

All registered students of the University are subject to the University's Regulations for Students. The Regulations contain rules and other important information about being a student at the University of Bath, including regulations governing the payment of fees due to the University, student discipline, fitness to study and those governing attendance, conduct and progress in studies. They also form part of the formal contract between you and the University. You will find references to the requirements of the Regulations for Students throughout this programme handbook. You are advised to download a copy of the Regulations and read them carefully as they contain a lot of important information.

Further information

The full Regulations for Students can be found at:
www.bath.ac.uk/regulations

8.3 Registration status

Note that only registered students may use the University's facilities, such as email, Moodle and the Library. You will be asked to register online at the start of your programme of study and then to re-register at the start of every academic year thereafter until you have completed your programme. It is a requirement that you register when asked to do so. Tuition fees for each academic year are payable at registration in full or in instalments.

Regulation 1.1 explains the requirement to register:
www.bath.ac.uk/regulations/Regulation1.pdf

Regulations 2.4 and 2.10 explain the consequences of non-payment of tuition fees:
www.bath.ac.uk/regulations/Regulation2.pdf

8.4 Attendance Monitoring

Guidance and requirements on attendance, including the University's Attendance Monitoring and Engagement Policy, are available at:
www.bath.ac.uk/students/visa-advice/attendance-monitoring/index.html
This page also sets out information on when and how to request an authorised absence.

8.5 Change in your circumstances

Personal circumstances

You must ensure that the University holds your correct, up-to-date, personal and academic details within SAMIS. If you change your address – either your semester-time or home address – please ensure that you update your details online at: www.bath.ac.uk/registration-on-line/

If you change your name, you will need to complete CC Form A (Notification of Change of Student's Personal Circumstances) and provide valid proof of the change. Please speak to your Department or Faculty/School administration, or Student Services in the Roper Centre, for a copy of the form and advice.

Academic circumstances

If you are considering suspending your studies, transferring from one programme to another, or withdrawing from your programme, please discuss your situation with your Director of Studies. They will be able to advise you on an appropriate course of action.

It is a University Regulation that you attend regularly (3.1); if circumstances are such that you are not able to do so, then please contact your Director of Studies to discuss your situation and agree an appropriate course of action.

Your Personal Tutor will also be able to provide support and guidance on matters relating to your programme.

The financial implications of withdrawing from the University or suspending your studies can be significant. You will find general information at:

www.bath.ac.uk/students/finance/funding-advice/changes-to-your-study/index.html

www.bath.ac.uk/students/finance/funding-advice/index.html

The Student Money Advice Team in Student Services and the Student Finance Office will be able to advise you on the implications for fees in your situation and on how to suspend any student funding you are receiving.

If you are an international student holding a Tier 4 visa, you should consult the advisers in the Student Immigration Service about the implications of suspending or withdrawing from your programme:
www.bath.ac.uk/groups/student-immigration-service/

You will need to register any change of academic circumstance, including a change of optional units, with the University. Please speak to your Department or Faculty/School administration who will provide the correct form.

8.6 Health and safety

The University's Health and Safety Policy Statement and policies on specific topics are available at: www.bath.ac.uk/hr/stayingsafewell/hs-policy/index.html

The Policy Statement is also displayed throughout the campus. Staff within the University Health, Safety and Environment Service (Wessex House 3.12) provide professional advice on health and safety matters and monitor the health and safety performance of the University.

Further information

www.bath.ac.uk/hr/stayingsafewell/index.html or email:

uhse@lists.bath.ac.uk.

Current University guidance on fieldwork and on work placements:

www.bath.ac.uk/hr/stayingsafewell/working-off-site/index.html

8.7 Data protection

The University's Data Protection Policy and Guidelines may be accessed via the data protection website - <http://www.bath.ac.uk/internal/data-protection/>

Guidance notes for students and academics undertaking research can be found here:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/data-protection/guidance/academic-research/index.html>

8.8 Equalities and diversity

Everyone at the University of Bath has a responsibility for promoting equality and fostering good relations between all members of the community, students and staff, and also for eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation against anyone for reasons of age, disability, gender, pregnancy and maternity, race (this means colour, nationality including citizenship, ethnic or national origins), religion or belief, sexual orientation, or transgender status. The new equality duty also covers marriage and civil partnership with regards to eliminating discrimination in employment. Follow this web link to an important document which explains the practices in the University:

www.bath.ac.uk/equalities/policiesandpractices/EqualityObjectives.pdf

Also available is an access guide which outlines the disabled access features and route plans at the University of Bath:

www.disabledgo.com/organisations/university-of-bath/main-2

Further information

8.9 Advice for students with disabilities, long-term illness, and specific learning difficulties

If you have a disability and/or specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia), we strongly advise you to speak to the Disability Service team, your Personal Tutor or Director of Studies as soon as possible and preferably before your programme begins. Referral to the Disability Service will enable us to assess your needs and make arrangements to support you.

Any personal information you give when disclosing your disability will be treated in confidence and made available *only* to relevant members of staff and only *with your permission*. If you don't disclose your disability it may be difficult for the University to provide suitable support to help you during your studies. Disclosure will not disadvantage you in any way.

The Disability Service provides advice, guidance, information and support for a range of needs including:

- Autism Spectrum Disorders/Asperger's Syndrome
- dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties
- mental health
- mobility impairments
- sensory impairments
- health conditions such as Epilepsy, HIV, Diabetes or Chronic Fatigue.

A screening process is available if you think you may have a specific learning difficulty/dyslexia.

Disability Advisers are also responsible for making applications for alternative arrangements for exams and assessments. Therefore, if you think that, because of a disability, you need alternative exam arrangements (such as extra time or the use of a computer) please discuss this with a Disability Adviser without delay.

Further information

Disability Service: www.bath.ac.uk/groups/disability-service/

8.10 Pregnancy and Maternity

The University is committed to being as flexible as possible in supporting students who become pregnant, decide to terminate a pregnancy or have a very young child. You are not under any obligation to inform the University of these circumstances, but doing so will enable us to put in place arrangements that will assist you in applying for, starting, or successfully completing a programme of study.

You can seek advice, guidance and support via your Director of Studies, Personal Tutor and the University's Student Services.

Further information

Student Services:

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/getting-advice-if-you-are-pregnant-while-studying-or-have-a-young-child/

8.11 Care Leavers and Estranged Students

The University is committed to supporting students from a wide range of backgrounds and circumstances including those who are care leavers, from Foyers or are estranged from their family. We are aware of the challenges students may face when starting university and we want you to get the best out of your programme and university experience. We are able to offer you advice and guidance about settling in, academic studies, funding, accommodation, wellbeing and careers. The service we provide is confidential and entirely optional in relation to the level of support you feel that you may need.

Further information

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/finance/funding-advice/care-leavers-foyer-residents/>

8.12 Careers Service

The University Careers Service can support you through the career planning process, whatever your career aspirations. In addition to providing support with developing your employability, and guidance on how to make informed career decisions, Careers Advisers will provide help with writing your CV, practising aptitude tests, and improving your interview skills. Being in regular contact with several hundred major employers, the Service is also

the best source of summer internships and graduate vacancies for Bath students, as well as the organiser of several major careers fairs each year.

Further information

The Careers Service is open throughout the year, including the vacations. Check the web site for opening times: www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/ Contact careers@bath.ac.uk or 01225 386009 or follow the Careers Service on Twitter @CareersatBath or Facebook (search for BathUniCareers). www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/ includes the Myfuture vacancies portal.

9 Dealing with a problem involving the University

We want to ensure that, if you have a problem concerning the University, it is resolved as quickly as possible. As described above, there are student representatives on all formal decision-making committees – at Programme, Departmental, and University level. Student representatives help to anticipate problems and, when problems occur, to deal with them promptly. As a result we can often resolve problems *before* they get to the stage where a formal complaint might be necessary.

9.1 Complaints

If you do need to make a complaint, there are procedures in place to deal with it, outlined in the Student Complaints Procedure (see below).

These procedures are designed to ensure that your complaint will be dealt with in good faith and that you will not be penalised for complaining. When we receive a complaint, we will first seek to deal with it through informal discussion. If this fails to resolve the issue at hand, you can raise the complaint formally.

In addition, there are procedures for requesting a review of progression or award classification decisions, or of the level of attainment. For information on these procedures, please see the section in this handbook on **Procedures for Academic Appeals**.

Further information

Student Complaints Procedure: www.bath.ac.uk/regulations/Appendix1.pdf

9.2 Bullying, harassment and victimisation

We believe that all our students and employees are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and to be free from unlawful discrimination, victimisation, bullying, or any form of harassment. This is set out in the University's policy, Dignity and Respect for Students and Staff of the University of Bath: Policy and Procedure for Dealing with Complaints (below). This policy and procedure applies to all staff, students and third parties (e.g. contractors to the University).

Further information

Dignity and Respect Policy:

www.bath.ac.uk/equalities/policiesandpractices/dignityandrespectpolicy.pdf

On reporting incidents of bullying or harassment, see also the section in this handbook on **Student Support**.

9.3 Mediation

If you are involved in a disagreement or dispute, you can seek help from the University's Mediation Service. This service is impartial, non-judgemental, and confidential. Requests for mediation support should in the first instance be made either to the Mediation Service Manager, or the Students' Union Advice and Community Manager.

Further information and contacts

Mediation Service:

www.bath.ac.uk/equalities/activities/mediation/index.html

Mediation Service Manager: Marlene Bertrand, M.Bertrand@bath.ac.uk (01225 383098) or

Students' Union Advice and Community Manager: Carol Lacey, C.Lacey@bath.ac.uk (01225 385863)