

University of Oxford

Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Divisional Office
9 Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PD



From the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division

Statement of Provision for PGT Students: M.Sc. in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing

1. *Who is the Course Director with overall responsibility for students on this course?*

Dr K Gillow

2. *What induction arrangements will be made?*

There is a special induction programme for this course in the week before the start of Michaelmas Term. During this week students meet the Course Organiser, the Course Director and their supervisor. Introductory talks are given on the computing and library facilities.

3. *What is the overall length of the course, and for how many weeks are students expected to work in Oxford?*

The course is a full 12 months and students should be working in Oxford throughout the terms and for a substantial part of each vacation.

4. *What is the pattern of lectures, classes, seminars, tutorials and self-directed work for this course?*

Students undertake core lecture courses, special topic lecture courses and classes in Mathematical Modelling, Scientific Computing and Additional Skills. Students usually complete four core courses which are taught in Michaelmas and Hilary term. Each core course typically comprises of 24 lectures plus supporting classes. Special topic lecture courses are given in all three terms and are generally 12-16 hours in length. Students are expected to undertake further reading and produce a special topic report, which should around 10-15 pages in length. Students will usually complete three special topics. Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing classes run in both Michaelmas and Hilary term; there are usually 16 classes per term. From March until the end of August students are also working on their dissertations.

5. *What one-to-one or small group teaching will students on this course receive?*

The taught part of the course is given through lectures and classes. Classes will usually contain 8-10 students. Students receive regular one-to-one tuition from their supervisor when they are working on their dissertation.

6. *Who will take overall responsibility for an individual student's progress and for completing the joint progress report form in each term of the course?*

Students will have a named supervisor who will report on their progress each term. Students should normally meet with their supervisor at least 3 times in each term and he/she will be available for consultation about any academic issues. The Course Director and Course Organiser will also monitor the progress of all students on the course.

7. *What workspace will be provided? What IT support/library facilities/experimental facilities will be available?*

Students have access to computer facilities in the Computing Laboratory and the Mathematical Institute and both departments have IT support teams. Students can also attend training sessions run by the Oxford University Computing Services and access centrally provided electronic resources. Students are able to use the Computing Laboratory Library and the Whitehead Library in the Mathematical Institute as well as the Radcliffe Science Library and other university libraries. Working space (but not an individual desk) is provided for students on this course in both the Mathematical Institute and the Computing Laboratory.

8. *What opportunities are provided for students to take part in research seminars or groups? What formal graduate skills training will be provided?*

Regular sessions on research and other skills are provided as part of this course and include: practical computing skills, oral and written presentation skills and communication skills.

9. *What are the arrangements for student feedback and for responding to student concerns?*

Students are invited to complete a questionnaire after each of the core lecture courses and are also asked to fill in an overall questionnaire at the end of the taught part of the course. A discussion session on how the course might be improved is held each year. In addition students are able to express concerns at any stage of the year by contacting either their supervisor or the Course Organiser or the Course Director.

10. *What arrangements for accommodation, meals and social facilities will be made for students on a graduate taught course?*

Department: Students can use the common rooms in both the Mathematical Institute and the Computing Laboratory where coffee and tea are always available.

Many colleges will be able to provide students with at least one year's accommodation. Generally speaking the college will provide meals throughout the year, but provision will vary from college to college, especially during vacations, and students will need to familiarise themselves with their college's detailed arrangements. In addition there are usually self-catering facilities available in graduate accommodation. Students will be a member of the Middle

Common Room, or equivalent, of their college, which is the main social centre for graduates. The MCR provides a common room and usually organises a programme of social events throughout the year. The college will also provide a bar, some computing facilities and a library, and may often have dedicated funds for research (conference and field grants). It also represents the interests of its members to the college through an elected Committee or through elected representatives to College Committees. Again, details will vary from college to college. Graduates are also welcome to participate in all other social and sporting activities of the college. Please see individual college websites for further details about all aspects of college provision.

Graduate students may become members of the University Club in Mansfield Road, and participate in the range of sporting activities provided by the University.

11. *What arrangements are in place for pastoral and welfare support?*

Within the department a student's supervisor, the Course Director and the Course Organiser are all available to offer support.

There is an extensive framework of support for graduates within each college. A college will allocate a student a College Advisor from among its Senior Members, usually in a cognate subject, who will arrange to see the student from time to time and whom the student may contact for additional advice and support on academic and other matters. In college students may also approach the Tutor for Graduates and/or the Senior Tutor for advice. The Tutor for Graduates is a fellow of the college with particular responsibility for the interests and welfare of graduate students. In some colleges, the Senior Tutor will also have the role of Tutor for Graduates. Each college will also have other named individuals who can offer individual advice.

The University also has a professionally staffed confidential Student Counselling Service, which offers assistance with personal, emotional, social, and academic problems (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/shw/counserv.shtml>) and a Careers Service (<http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/>).