Welcome to Trinity!

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School of Mathematics
Director of Undergraduate Studies

http://www.maths.tcd.ie/~vdots
Do not assume that they are similar because they are not.

First of all, the size of your class will be much bigger. There should be about 100 students in most of your first-year modules (including Mathematics, Theoretical Physics and also TSM students).

The material introduced will be more difficult to grasp. You will not be able to understand everything by simply attending lectures.

You ended up here because you did well in secondary school, but you are not going to do well here just because you ended up here.

The teaching approach will be different and it will take some time to adjust. You will need to understand the material and frequently argue with proofs. In particular: memorising some basic facts will not usually help!
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- Tutorials start during the second week of classes. They do appear in your timetable, but they are meant to start a week later.
Freshman vs. sophister

- The degree is divided into two parts, two freshman years and two sophister years.

- Freshman years. Most modules are mandatory during the first two years. These years are designed to introduce the background needed to study all kinds of topics. Students are allowed to fail 1-2 modules, as long as their marks in these modules are not particularly low.

- Sophister years. During the last two years, students get to choose their own modules based on their interests and future plans. There is a large selection of modules including maths education, statistics and various theoretical/applied maths modules. Students are allowed to fail up to 4 modules and may even fail 2 of those quite badly.

- About half of the sophister modules are offered every year and about half of them every other year. The overall mark that will eventually appear on your degree is based solely on your sophister marks.
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Homework vs. exams

- The marking policy for most modules is roughly 80% for the annual exam and 20% for homework. There is usually a correlation between homework scores and exam performance.

- You are allowed to collaborate on homework, but you are expected to write up your own solutions. Late homework is usually not accepted. In fact, solutions may be posted online once the homework is due.

- If you miss a homework assignment or an exam due to an illness or some other serious cause, then you should inform your college tutor. Your tutor should be able to arrange an extension/exemption for the assignment and also try to reschedule the exam you missed.

- Annual exams take place in April/May for all students. Supplemental exams take place in August/September for freshman students and the modules they failed. Students who fail their exams get to repeat the year, but they can only repeat once (except for medical reasons).
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You need to talk with your tutor in order to transfer to some other course, justify an exam absence, appeal your results, withdraw from college, and so on. These are all formal procedures that are handled by your tutor (and also the Senior Tutor in cases of urgency).

You should generally inform your tutor of any circumstances that may affect your performance (such as personal, health or other issues).

Your tutors will be able to provide advice about both academic and personal issues. They may not solve your problems, but they can help you reduce the impact of these problems on your academic progress.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F2</td>
<td>F1</td>
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- About 10-15% of the freshman students fail their annual exams and about 5-10% of the freshman students fail their supplemental exams.
Things of interest

- **Prizes.** There are several prizes for Maths students and those are given to the students with the highest rankings in their class.
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- **Societies.** There is a long list of societies that you may join including various sports clubs, a Students’ Union and also the MathSoc.
First term modules

MA1111 – Linear algebra I .............. Paschalis Karageorgis
MA1125 – Single-variable calculus ........ Donal O’Donovan
MA1213 – Introduction to group theory .... Colm Ó Dúnlaing
MA1241 – Mechanics I ................. Jan Manschot
ST1251 – Introduction to statistics I ......... Fergal Shevlin

During the second term, you will be taking the sequels of MA1111, MA1125 and ST1251, advanced calculus and C/C++ programming.

You will also need to choose an additional module which could be either MA1242 Mechanics II or MA1282 Mathematical Economics.
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- **Maths timetable**: www.maths.tcd.ie/undergraduate/timetable
  - The maths timetable is available through this web page.
## List of common lecture theatres

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Code</th>
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<th>Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sal1</td>
<td>Salmon</td>
<td>Hamilton building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syn2</td>
<td>Synge</td>
<td>Hamilton building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jol4</td>
<td>Joly</td>
<td>Hamilton building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max5</td>
<td>Maxwell</td>
<td>Hamilton building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EELT</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>East End Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB01, ST120</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lloyd building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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Synge, Salmon, Maxwell and Joly are in the Hamilton building.

EELT is in the basement of 3. LB01 and ST120 are in the Lloyd building/institute, which is next to 11. PLLT is in the Fitzgerald (or Physics) building, which is also next to 11.