Welcome to Trinity!

Vladimir Dotsenko (or Vlad)
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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 (same classes for Mathematics, Theoretical Physics and 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. Memorising some basic facts will not usually help!
School vs. college

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Lectures vs. tutorials

- Most first-year modules include 3 lectures per week. Those are meant to introduce new material and they are attended by all students.

- You will also have 1 tutorial per week for each module. Tutorials are problem solving classes for smaller groups of students. They will give you the chance to work on some practice problems, to ask questions about various concepts and to collaborate with other students.

- We are not very likely to take attendance in class. However, tutorials are very important for learning and you should always attend them. You need to work on some practice problems regularly. Most of the students who fail are students who do not attend their tutorials.

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- 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.
Homework vs. exams

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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 most TSM 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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- Most universities impose a II.1 average as one of their minimum entry requirements for admission to a postgraduate degree programme.
- In order to pass their exams, freshman students are expected to pass on average and have at most two failing scores, but no F2.
- 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.

- **Foundation Scholarship.** This is a prestigious award that includes free tuition, accommodation and meals for up to 5 years. It is given to all second-year students who excel in a series of exams.

- **Exchange programmes.** Third-year students are allowed to study abroad in various universities across the world. Some past students studied at Berkeley, UCLA, U of Melbourne, Paris V, and so on.

- **Maths Help Room.** This is a drop-in centre for maths questions. It is run by undergraduate students who are available at fixed times.

- **Societies.** There is a long list of societies that you may join including various sports clubs, a Students' Union and also the MathSoc.
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MA1125 – Single-variable calculus ......... Donal O’Donovan
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▶ All modules are mandatory for the TSM Maths/Economics students during the first two years. The other TSM students will be able to choose 2 optional modules next year (out of 7 offered).
Sources of information

- **TCD web site:** [www.tcd.ie/students/](http://www.tcd.ie/students/)
  
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- **Maths timetable:**
  www.maths.tcd.ie/undergraduate/timetable
  - The maths timetable is available through this web page.
Main lecture theatres

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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syn2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jol4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EELT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB01, ST120</td>
</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.