Welcome to Trinity!

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School of Mathematics
Director of Undergraduate Studies

http://www.maths.tcd.ie/~vdots
School vs. college

- 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. Normally, at least twice the time you spend in class should go into homeworks and self-study.

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: just 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.
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Fresh vs. sophister

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- **Fresh 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 1-2 modules, as long as their marks in these modules are not particularly low.

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If you miss a homework assignment or an exam due to an illness or another 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.
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There will be just one week for revision of all modules before exams so make sure you focus during the semester! Supplemental (repeat) exams take place in August to examine all students in modules they failed. Students who do not pass either normally or via supplementals get to repeat the year, but each year can only be repeated once (except for medical reasons).
Most of you have already been assigned a college tutor. The role of your college tutor is to serve as your representative in college.

- 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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- In order to pass their exams, freshers are expected to pass on average and have at most two failing scores, each of 35% or above.
- About 10-15% of the freshers fail their annual exams and about 5-10% of the freshers 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

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MA1125 – Single-variable calculus ...... Paschalis Karageorgis
ST1251 – Introduction to statistics I ........ Fergal Shevlin
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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/)
  
  → Several useful links and a list of all clubs and societies.
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- **Maths timetable:**
  - [www.maths.tcd.ie/undergraduate/timetable](http://www.maths.tcd.ie/undergraduate/timetable)
  - The maths timetable is available through this web page.
# Main lecture theatres

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<tr>
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<td>Max5</td>
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<td>McN3</td>
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<td>EELT</td>
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</tr>
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Synge, Salmon, Maxwell, MacNeil, and Joly are in the Hamilton building.

EELT is in the basement of 3. LB01, LB04, LB08, ST107, and ST120 are in the Lloyd building/institute, which is next to 11. CLLT is in 5. PLLT is in the Fitzgerald (or Physics) building, which is also next to 11.