



# Increasing the supply of mathematical sciences graduates

## **more maths grads**

*more maths grads* is a three-year project whose goal is to ensure that the UK has the mathematical skills it needs for the future. It is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and was launched in 2007.



## About the project

*more maths grads* is developing, trialling and evaluating ways to boost the number of students studying mathematically rich subjects at university. In particular, it wants to encourage learners who come from these backgrounds, which have not traditionally been well represented in higher education to go on to study mathematics:

- women
- Black African, Black Caribbean, Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups
- returning adult learners in mathematics, especially part-time
- lower socio-economic groups.

The project is based at the University of Birmingham. There are three regional pilot centres based at universities in areas that reflect the diverse populations that *more maths grads* is trying to reach:

- Yorkshire & Humberside (University of Leeds)
- West Midlands (Coventry University)
- East London (Queen Mary, University of London)

Each regional centre works in close partnership with local schools, colleges, employers and careers organisations.

They hold events for students and teachers, create resources for the classroom and careers centres and build links with employers based in their regions.

## Are our universities getting their maths right?

A further strand of the project is based at Sheffield Hallam University. It is reviewing the content and the methods of teaching mathematics in UK universities. It will then recommend ways that these can be updated to ensure that a wide range of both students and employers get the most from university mathematics courses.

## Helping teachers enjoy teaching

*more maths grads* is working with the teachers in partner schools and colleges to support their work. It wants to help teachers to enjoy their teaching so they in turn can raise the aspirations and attainment levels of their students.



## Asking 'why study maths?'

*more maths grads* wants to make maths enjoyable. It works closely with schools and colleges to help students understand why they are studying maths. Workshops explore the applications of mathematics and introduce students to new and fun ways to look at maths. Key goals are to improve students' confidence and to ensure they realise their potential.

The project encourages students to take their study of mathematics to a higher level, even those who may not have achieved top grades at GCSE. It ensures all students find out about the options available to them in maths.

## Showing that maths opens doors

*more maths grads* tries to demonstrate to students just how useful mathematics can be when making career decisions. It is producing materials that highlight the diverse and rewarding careers which are based on mathematics. The project is working with careers advisory services and employers to ensure that students and teachers receive the most up to date information available.

This part of the project is working with the Council for the Mathematical Sciences, which runs the website [www.mathscareers.org.uk](http://www.mathscareers.org.uk).

## Wider benefits

The benefits of the project will not just be felt in university mathematics departments. By encouraging more students to continue with mathematics to A level (or equivalent), *more maths grads* hopes to improve achievements of students who study other science, technology or engineering courses at university.

Increasing the number of students studying maths at university also helps to make sure mathematics remains a sustainable subject. With more mathematics graduates, there is a larger pool of potential mathematics teachers for the future.





**more maths grads**

multiplying opportunities

## Who is involved

*more maths grads* is a collaboration between:

- the Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences
- the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
- the London Mathematical Society
- the Maths, Stats and OR Network, Higher Education Academy
- the Royal Statistical Society

*more maths grads* is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and runs from 2007 to 2010. The project then hopes to expand to cover more regions.

*more maths grads* is already working with these employers:

- Coca Cola Enterprises
- Jaguar
- KPMG
- Rolls Royce PLC

The project is always looking for other industrial partners – please contact the project manager for more details.

## Contact information

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[www.moremathsgrads.org.uk](http://www.moremathsgrads.org.uk)