

**Royal Holloway, University of London**  
**Course specification for an undergraduate award**  
**MSci Mathematics (G103)**

**Section 1 – Introduction to your course**

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree course in MSci Mathematics is delivered in four stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow modules to the value of 120 credits.

In stage one you must take eight mandatory modules which seek to provide a broadly based introduction to mathematics, developing manipulative skills, understanding of the key concepts and the ability to construct logical arguments. In Stage two, you must take eight modules, which continues your study of abstract pure mathematics and its applications. In stage three, you choose eight modules. You are advised on appropriate combinations and pathways depending on your interests, Stage two options, and possible future career paths. You may choose to undertake an extended project. In Stage four, you must undertake the project module MT4000 (30 credits) and choose six options (to the value of 90 credits) from stage four only.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

*Degree course* – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

*Module* – May also be referred to as 'course', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	August 2020	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	MSci Mathematics	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	1277	UCAS code	G103
Year of entry	2021/22		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Mathematics	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	Duration of the course	Four years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	Accredited by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) for the purpose of meeting in full the educational requirement for chartered status. Successful completion of this course enables students to meet the requirements of the Chartered Mathematician designation.		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	<a href="https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/">https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/</a>	For queries on admissions:	<a href="mailto:study@royalholloway.ac.uk">study@royalholloway.ac.uk</a> .

**Section 3 – Degree course structure**

**3.1 Mandatory module information**

The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study

Stage	Module code	Module title	Contact hours*	Self-study hours	Written exams**	Practical assessment**	Coursework**	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (see below)
1	MT1100	Introduction to Geometry	30	120	85%	0	15%	15	4	MC
1	MT1210	Introduction to Applied Maths	38	112	70%	0	30%	15	4	MC
1	MT1300	Statistical Methods I	40	110	65%	0	35%	15	4	MC
1	MT1710	Calculus I	42	108	85%	0	15%	15	4	MC
1	MT1720	Calculus II	39	111	85%	0	15%	15	4	MC
1	MT1810	Introduction to Pure Mathematics	48	102	85%	0	15%	15	4	MC
1	MT1820	Linear Algebra I	39	111	85%	0	15%	15	4	MC
1	MT1940	Real Analysis	39	111	85%	0	15%	15	4	MC
2	MT2500	Scientific Programming	57	93	0	0	100%	15	5	MC
2	MT2800	Linear Algebra II	30	120	85%	0	15%	15	5	MC
4	MT4000	MSci Project	15	285	0	10%	90%	30	7	MNC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where

requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

\*Contact hours come in various different forms, and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

\*\*The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module.

### 3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional modules that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can access via their [webpage](#).

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
None	MT2860 Groups and Group Actions	MT3320 Statistical Inference	MT4910 Topology
	MT2320 Probability Theory	MT3250 Quantum Theory II	MT4130 Complexity Theory
	MT2630 Graphs and Optimisation	MT3410 Classical Information Theory	MT4250 Quantum Theory II
	MT2830 Ring Theory	MT3660 Cryptography II	

### 3.3 Optional module requirements

In **stage two** you must take options to the value of 90 credits from a list of stage two modules offered by the Department.

In **stage three**, you must take options to the value of 120 credits from a list of Stage three modules offered by the Department. In stage three you may also choose options from the stage four list if you wish. You are advised on appropriate combinations and pathways depending on your interests, stage one and two options, and possible future career paths. You may choose to undertake an extended project as MT3000.

In **stage four**, you must take 90 credits of options from the list of stage four modules offered by the Department. All stage four modules exist also in stage three versions. In stage four, you can only take level 7 modules (with a prefix of MT<sub>4</sub>XXX) and you cannot take the stage four version of a module if you have already taken the stage three version.

#### Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

#### Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- to provide students with technical manipulative skills, the ability to read and write in the compressed language of mathematics, and the ability to distil a problem into a mathematical description of its essential detail;
- to ensure that students gain an appreciation of, and interest in, the logical structure of mathematics, and its use as an analytical and predictive tool in applications;
- to offer a wide range of optional modules to suit students' interests and strengths;
- to provide access to personal, academic and pastoral support;
- to enable students, on graduation, to compete effectively in employment or postgraduate study.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes	
<p>In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (<i>Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)</i>)</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Of mathematical methods (<b>K</b>);</li> <li>2. Of mathematical concepts such as number and function (<b>K</b>);</li> <li>3. Of abstract structures such as groups, matrices, and fields (<b>K</b>);</li> <li>4. Of some results from a range of major areas of mathematics, statistics or operational research (<b>K</b>);</li> <li>5. Of at least one major area of applications in which the mathematics is used in a serious manner and is essential for proper understanding (<b>K</b>);</li> <li>6. A high level of numeracy (<b>S</b>);</li> <li>7. Ability to manipulate and analyze complex mathematical expressions accurately (<b>S</b>);</li> <li>8. Ability to understand the role of logical mathematical argument and deductive reasoning, including formal proof (<b>S</b>);</li> <li>9. Familiarity with computer methods in mathematics and statistics (<b>S</b>);</li> <li>10. Ability to formulate problems in mathematical or statistical form using appropriate notation (<b>S</b>);</li> <li>11. The ability to solve equations or inequalities arising from a problem analytically or numerically, and to interpret the results (<b>S</b>);</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Accurate analysis of a situation, the factors involved and possible approaches to solution. This is embedded in a general ethos of numeracy and of analytical approaches to problem solving (<b>S</b>);</li> <li>13. Ability to take theoretical knowledge gained in one area and apply it elsewhere (<b>S</b>);</li> <li>14. Ability to make a sequence of logical steps, and reflect on the result (<b>S</b>);</li> <li>15. Ability to communicate mathematical results clearly, to both mathematicians and lay persons (<b>S</b>);</li> <li>16. Spatial awareness in two and three dimensions (<b>S</b>);</li> <li>17. Good general skills of time-management and organization (<b>S*</b>);</li> <li>18. To learn independently, using a variety of media including books, learned journals, the internet etc (<b>S*</b>);</li> <li>19. To work independently with persistence and patience, pursuing the solution of problems to their conclusion (<b>S*</b>);</li> <li>20. Develop IT skills, including word-processing and use of the internet (<b>S*</b>);</li> <li>21. Personal motivation and the planning of a career path (<b>S*</b>);</li> <li>22. Good written and oral communication skills, which enable them to write coherently and turn a rough draft into a convincing argument and contribute to discussions (<b>S*</b>);</li> <li>23. Ability to work together with others as a team (<b>S*</b>).</li> </ol>

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment
<p>Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, small group tutorials, problem-solving workshop sessions, written and oral feedback on coursework, practical sessions in statistics and computational mathematics, guided independent study and oral presentations. You are in addition encouraged to read around the subject, and at the end of the first and second stages you write essays or projects on topics of your own choice. Assessment is typically by formal examinations and in certain modules in-term tests, projects, coursework essays and oral presentations. Full details of the assessment methods for individual modules may be obtained from the <a href="#">Department</a>.</p>

<b>Section 8 – Additional costs</b>	
None	
These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.	

<b>Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards</b>	
<b>QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</b>	4-7
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
<b>QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)</b>	<a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements</a>
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

**Section 10 – Further information**

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Your course will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your course may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

**Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)**

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

**Section 12 - Associated award(s)**

- MSci Mathematics (G103)
- BSc Mathematics (G100)