Introduction to Course Choices

Hello and welcome to the School of Mathematics at the University of Edinburgh. We are your student advisers, I’m Niamh,

And I’m Emily. We are looking forward to meeting you & welcoming you to our community for the new academic year. As you may be aware, in the week commencing 12th September, there will be school and University–wide welcome activities to help settle and orientate you to your programmes as well as student life here in Edinburgh.

You should already have received links to our welcome week timetable in the welcome email from the school of mathematics and we would encourage you to download the University of Edinburgh Events app to track the events you’d like to attend.

As you prepare to arrive in Edinburgh, one of the most important things you can do is to start considering which optional courses you’d like to take. In this video we’ll talk you through some basic guidelines as you begin to think through your course choices.

First, it is important to note that all programmes require you to take 120 credits in each academic year. This consists of compulsory courses and optional courses and we recommend that you seek to achieve a 60 credit balance in Semester 1 and 60 in Semester 2 to have an equal workload.

You will be automatically enrolled onto your compulsory courses, so one of the key things you should consider now are the optional courses you may want to take on your programme. Whilst some of you may have a clear vision of what you want to achieve others may be less sure of what to study as part of your programme. Either way you may have some questions about courses, especially optional courses, and how they would benefit you to achieve your goals. Please take a look at the degree programme table, known as the DPT, for your programme of study, PATH which is the course selection tool and it also privides timetabling guidance – you should find links to these on this webpage.

The DPT will give you an overview of the structure of the programme and a brief description of the courses you can choose to study. PATH is a tool for exploring the course choices that are available to you. PATH also shows you how your year 1 choices will impact your year 2 choices, 3, 4 and onwards. The course choices timetabling guidance will give you further give you information on how to choose your courses. Please remember it is important to keep the balance of 60-60 credits per semester across your year.

Before you arrive, on the 7th of September there will be a 1-hour online Q&A session with a member of staff from your programme area, so that could be us, or your academic cohort leads. You can use this time to ask questions about the programme and courses. After the Q&A session you will have an opportunity to submit your optional course choices for the year. If at that stage you don’t feel like you are ready to submit your choices, the programme and course information will be covered in greater depth during welcome week. Even if you do submit your choices these can be changed as required once you arrive at the University.

If you have any questions regarding course choices, you can email us at UGcourses@maths.ed.ac.uk. We look forward to meeting you at the School of Mathematics during welcome week.