



INSTITUTE OF
**MATHEMATICS &
ITS APPLICATIONS**

Boosting Maths recruitment at lower tariff institutions

Introduction

In June 2024, the LMS published a report by Prof. Paul Wakeling (York) entitled *Mathematics in UK Higher Education, A Brief Overview*. In the Executive Summary, the author noted that:

“Maths students are concentrated in research-intensive universities, especially in the Russell Group, where each member university has substantial numbers of maths undergraduates. For example, 58% of maths first-year undergraduate enrolments were in Russell Group universities in 2021/22. This is a sharp contrast to the distribution of students across all subjects, where 27% of total undergraduate enrolments are in Russell Group universities and the majority are in post-1992 universities. Integrated masters enrolments in maths are also heavily concentrated in Russell Group universities.

Over the past decade, there has been a striking shift of maths first-degree first-year enrolments towards high tariff universities and away from low and medium tariff institutions.”

A new recruitment programme

The IMA is pleased to announce a new programme aimed at boosting Maths recruitment, from under-represented groups, at lower tariff universities. It is available to all Maths departments in England, Wales and Northern Ireland whose A level Maths entry requirement is a grade B or lower.

In the new programme, participating departments have the opportunity to showcase their capabilities through a sustained engagement with twenty local A level Maths students. In addition to an on-campus visit, it is anticipated that this initiative will be run virtually for ten sessions in the summer term of Year 12 and comprise six academic sessions, two sessions on applying to university and a further two sessions chosen by the Maths department.

Six academic sessions

The six academic sessions are simply a subset of *Levelling Up: Maths*. It is delivered virtually in small tutorial groups, led by undergraduates from the Maths department.

Four non-academic sessions

The four non-academic sessions are considered to be part of a university’s usual outreach activities, often delivered in conjunction with the Widening Participation team.

Deeper engagement with local schools

A central component of this new initiative is the engagement with local schools. There is significant scope to strengthen these mutually beneficial relationships.

Fully-funded for three years

We are pleased to acknowledge financial support for this programme from Dr Tony Hill FIMA. Funding of up to £2000 per year is available for three years. Experience with *Levelling Up: Maths* has shown that this will cover the full cost of delivering the programme - apart from the on-campus visit and the four non-academic sessions.

Applications are now open

To find out more about this new programme, or to register your interest, please contact the IMA by clicking the following link: levellingup@ima.org.uk.