The School of Mathematics & Statistics offers two different Level 1 mathematics courses, Mathematics 1RS and 1XY. Both streams cover the same material: the basics of calculus and some elementary algebra consolidating and leading on from the level of Higher Mathematics in Secondary Education.

*The decision whether to take 1RS or 1XY will not affect your future choices and around 50% of our honours BSc students come from the 1RS stream and the other 50% come from the 1XY stream.*

**What is the difference between Mathematics 1RS and 1XY?**

1XY will include more challenging and advanced problems as well as introduce more abstract mathematical notions.

*Depending on a student’s qualifications, the difference in difficulty might result in a final course grade that is considerable lower in 1X than in 1R and impact negatively on your GPA. We therefore strongly recommend that 1XY is only attempted by students with the highest qualifications in mathematics. Passing the skills test (see below) without difficulty in your first attempt is a good indication whether you have the necessary foundations for 1XY.*

If you are not taking a degree involving mathematics or statistics, you should seriously consider taking the less demanding courses 1R and 1S, even if you meet the qualifications for 1X and 1Y.

There is currently also a difference in assessment. Mathematics 1RS puts a higher emphasis on continuous assessment which counts 40% towards the final grade. The degree exam in December will last two hours and accounts for the remaining 60%. These criteria might be subject to change, please check the course catalogue for the latest information.

The final grade in Mathematics 1XY is computed by multiplying the results from the continuous assessment with 20% and the degree exam with 80%.

Both courses run in addition weekly tutorials where students work in small groups on homework problems under the supervision of a staff member (tutor) as well as so-called skills labs which are multiple choice tests consisting of 15 questions on a range of school mathematical skills.

These assessment criteria also apply to the Semester 2 courses 1S and 1Y, respectively.
What are the entry requirements for 1XY?

Currently the recommended entrance standards for students are:

- A in Higher Maths and Advanced Higher Maths (Scotland)
- A* in A-Level Maths (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)
- A in A-Level maths, B in A-level Further Maths (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)
- International Baccalaureate: a mark of 7 (excellent) in standard level Mathematics or a mark of 6 and above in higher level or further mathematics higher level.
- Equivalent European qualifications as listed in the table below; please provide the School Office (maths-stats-teaching@glasgow.ac.uk) with a copy of your qualification which needs to display your mathematics grade in your final year.

In a few exceptional cases, students failing these requirements but who can present good cause why entry should be allowed will be put on a waiting list for the course. If spaces in 1X/1Y are available after the first week of classes these students will be notified about the final decision. Initially, these students should enrol into 1R/1S.
Skills Test & Self-Assessment
You can self-assess whether you have the necessary mathematics training for 1XY by taking a trial version of the Maths Skills Test. This test can be taken online as soon as you have a University computer account. You need to be running the latest version of the Firefox web browser. The Skills Test will give you an idea what kind of prerequisite knowledge we expect students to have and passing it is an requirement for entry into Level 2 Maths Courses. When taking a trial version of the test (it lasts 50 mins) you should obtain a score of 12 out of 15 to pass. You should pass this test without difficulty within the first few weeks. Enrol into 1RS if you find the skills test challenging.

Warning: this self-assessment is for your own benefit and, thus, there is no point in trying to cheat and convince yourself that you only failed because you made “silly” mistakes.

I have the requirements but cannot enrol for 1X and 1Y!
If you meet the entrance requirements, then you should be able to see 1X and 1Y as an option when you enrol by requirements on MyCampus. If this is not the case please either contact the
- School Office: maths-stats-teaching@glasgow.ac.uk
- Maths & Stats Senior Adviser: maths-stats-senioradviser@glasgow.ac.uk

Can I switch courses later on?
You will be allowed to switch between courses during the first two teaching weeks (the first two weeks when lectures have started) should you have the necessary requirements to enter 1X. You cannot switch after this deadline due to the different assessment criteria for both courses.

Can I switch between both streams after the first semester?
1X students who feel the course is too challenging or who had poor results in the continuous assessment and/or degree exam (Grade D1 and lower) will be strongly advised to enrol in 1S. In exceptional cases students who excel in 1R might be given permission to change to 1Y. Both changes are subject to confirmation by the respective Course Heads of 1X and 1R and details will be announced on the respective course pages later in the year.

Dr Christian Korff, 31 July 2015
(mathsciences-head1xy@glasgow.ac.uk)