

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London					
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College					
3	Programme Title(s)	Graduate Certificate Mathematics by Distance Learning					
4	Programme Code(s)	GCGMTHDJ_C (January start) GCGMTHDL_C (October start)					
5	UCAS code	N/A					
6	Home Department	Economics, Mathematics and Statistics					
7	Exit Award(s)	N/A					
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	7 months (Jan-July) or 1 year (October – July)					
9	Mode of Study	FT		PT		DL	✓
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6					
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A					
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A					
13	QAA Benchmark Statement	N/A					

14	Programme Rationale & Aims					
	<p>Aims: The aim of the programme is to provide a high quality qualifying course for our mathematics postgraduate provision, delivered by distance learning to ensure maximum flexibility for learners, whether based in London or further afield in the UK or internationally.</p> <p>Rationale: The College mission is to educate busy working people. This Graduate Certificate, with its online delivery, gives students huge flexibility, both in the way they structure their study time during the week, but also in the fact that it enables us to offer both January and October starts.</p> <p>Although the Graduate Certificate can be taken as a stand-alone course, its main purpose is to act as a qualifying course for our postgraduate provision. The MSc in Mathematics, and in Mathematics with Financial Modelling, have both part-time and full-time variants, and as such can be taken by both home and international students.</p> <p>Although our core provision remains face-to-face teaching and learning, for shorter programmes such as the proposed Graduate Certificate, international students are excluded because of visa rules. This means that, at present, such students, if they do not meet the MSc entry criteria, have no access to existing qualifying courses.</p> <p>Strengths of the programme: The Graduate Certificate in Mathematics by distance learning will allow students to take this course from January and qualify for an MSc starting the next October. The flexibility of online study means students can fit their learning more easily around job commitments and caring responsibilities. The modules have been designed specifically to give students the key knowledge from core undergraduate topics, to allow them to access postgraduate</p>					

	<p>study. Students will be learning from experienced academics, all active mathematics researchers.</p> <p>Knowledge and Skills that will be developed: Students completing the Graduate Certificate in Mathematics by Distance Learning will gain crucial skills in understanding and applying core mathematics results from areas such as algebra, calculus and analysis. In particular, they will learn the importance of rigorous mathematical arguments, and gain understanding of key mathematical concepts that are the basis of postgraduate study in mathematics. Students will improve their quantitative and analytical skills, and can use successful completion of this programme as a stepping-stone to our Masters courses in Mathematics.</p>
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15	<p>Entry Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A degree in a quantitative subject, normally at least 2:1 or equivalent. • Standard college English language requirement. • Students may be able to be admitted without a 2:1 in a quantitative degree, subject to passing an entrance test.
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16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Subject Specific: LO1 Knowledge and understanding of, and the ability to use, mathematical methods and techniques. LO2 Knowledge and understanding of a range of results in mathematics. LO3 Appreciation of the need for proof in mathematics, and the ability to follow and construct mathematical arguments. LO4 Understand the importance of assumptions and an awareness of where they are used and the possible consequences of their violation. LO5 Appreciation of the power of generalization and abstraction in the development of mathematical theories. LO6 A deeper knowledge of some particular areas of mathematics.</p> <p>Intellectual: LO7 Ability to comprehend conceptual and abstract material. LO8 Develop a logical and systematic approach to problem solving.</p> <p>Practical: LO9 Problem-solving skills, including the ability to assess problems logically and approach them analytically. LO10 Highly developed quantitative skills. LO11 Ability to transfer knowledge and expertise from one context to another.</p> <p>Personal and Social: LO12 Ability to work independently with patience and persistence. LO13 Time-management skills and organizational skills. LO14 Good communication skills, including the ability to write coherently. LO15 Ability to complete work in a limited time period.</p>
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17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods																																	
	<p>Learning and teaching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-recorded online lectures • Online self-assessment quizzes with automated marking/feedback • Live-streamed examples classes • Moodle discussion boards • Virtual “office hours” <p>Assessment Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online assessed quizzes • Short problem-based assignments, submitted and marked online • Formal unseen 2-hour examinations, taken in person 																																	
18	Programme Description																																	
	<p>Students will take four 15-credit, level 6, online mathematics modules, over either two terms or three terms. Each module will be delivered online, with the only physical attendance requirement being the end-of-module examination.</p> <p>In 2020-21, the programme will only have a January start.</p> <p>October start (currently suspended); course duration 1 year/3 terms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any four 15 credit modules from the Autumn, Spring or Summer Terms. • All modules run for a single term with the exam at the end of the term. • Programme completed at end of Summer Term. <p>January start (from Jan 2020); course duration 2 terms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any four 15 credit modules from the Spring and Summer Terms. • Programme completed at end of Summer Term. • All modules run for a single term with the exam at the end of the term. 																																	
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6	-	Any other appropriate 15 credit level 6 module, subject to the approval of the programme director	15	option
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Status* *CORE* – Module must be taken and passed by student; *COMPULSORY* – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; *OPTIONAL* – Student can choose to take this module

20	Regulations			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf • Credit Transfer Accredited Prior Learning is not available on Graduate Certificate programmes. • Programme Regulations This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations • Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable) N/A 			
21	Student Attendance Framework – in brief			
	<p>The full version of the 'Student Attendance Framework' is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf .</p> <p>Principle Consistent and regular student engagement promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.</p> <p>Attendance expectation Birkbeck, University of London expects you to engage consistently with all learning steps, including watching the online lectures, attempting online quizzes, attending group classes and learning support sessions, and submitting all written assignments.</p>			
22	Student Support and Guidance			
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services			
23	Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards			
	<p>The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.</p> <p>For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality .</p>			

Year of entry: 2020/21



24	Programme Director	Sarah Hart
25	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	January 2021
26	Date approved by Education Committee	Summer 2020
27	Date approved by Academic Board	Autumn 2020
28	Date(s) updated/amended	August 2020