



Focus of the Month April 2018

Advanced Maths Premium

The Advanced Maths Premium is additional funding for post-16 providers to support increased participation in level 3 mathematics. The Premium was first announced by the government in the **Autumn 2017 Budget statement** - section 5.8, and accompanies other measures to improve provision for mathematics and increase participation, such as relaxing the A level Further Mathematics grade required to C or above for students studying a large programme in order to be eligible for the **funding uplift**.

Department for Education has now produced guidance for schools and colleges on how the Advanced Maths Premium will be calculated.

Summary of the guidance:

- The funding is for each additional student, above a baseline, studying a level 3 maths qualification.
- The baseline is calculated from the mean number of students studying level 3 maths qualifications in academic years 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- Data from the Individualised Learner Records (ILR) and October census data will be used to find the number of students.
- Core Maths and AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics qualifications, along with AS/A level Statistics, and a number of other similar qualifications, are considered as level 3 maths qualifications.
- The first year for the premium is academic year 2018-19.
- The premium will be paid in funding allocations in 2019-20 and for the following 2 years in the first instance.
- The premium is paid at a rate of £600 per year per “additional” student for one year, for AS level equivalent courses, or two years, for A level or equivalent courses.
- A student studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics will be counted twice in the same year.

Full details are available on the [DFE website](#) and further details are available from the [FMSP](#).

An illustration of how the premium will be calculated is given below:

Qualification	2015-16	2016-17	Baseline	2018-19
AS level Mathematics	30	28	29	0
A level Mathematics	23	15	19	47
AS level Further Mathematics	4	0	2	4
A level Further Mathematics	1	5	3	4
Total	58	48	53	55

In this case the Advanced Maths Premium for payment in the 2019-20 funding allocation is $2 \times \text{£}600 = \text{£}1200$. (In this example the figures include students in Year 12 and 13 of A level courses and Year 12 of AS level courses. Students studying AS/A level Maths and Further Maths are counted once in each category.)

The Advanced Maths Premium is excellent news. Funding pressures have meant that many schools and colleges do not offer AS/A level Further Maths or Core Maths or allow students to take AS level Maths. The premium can enable schools and colleges to afford to offer a full range of level 3 mathematics pathways.

Increasing participation in Further Mathematics

There are a range of ways that the FMSP can support schools and colleges to offer AS and A level Further Mathematics. The FMSP website has help and advice about

- Strategies for offering Further Mathematics in a cost-effective way, including [FMSP support for tuition](#)
- [Schemes of work](#) for Further Mathematics
- Offering AS Further Mathematics [in Year 13](#) or [over two years](#)

Offering the opportunity for students to study AS level Further Mathematics in Year 12 or 13 is one way to increase participation in Further Mathematics and AS Further Maths is accessible to a wide range of students and will benefit students going on to study a STEM degree.

Increasing participation in AS level Mathematics

Many students can really benefit from taking AS level Mathematics, even if they don't continue to full A level. Schools and colleges which have withdrawn the option for students in year 12 to study for AS levels should consider reinstating this option to increase participation in mathematics and benefit from the additional Advanced Maths Premium funding.

Increasing participation in Core Maths

The Advanced Maths Premium offers an excellent opportunity for schools and colleges to introduce [Core Maths](#) provision. This is a new level 3 mathematics qualification equivalent in size to an AS level qualification. Introducing Core Maths could dramatically increase the number of students studying level 3 mathematics and for each additional student there would be an extra £600 in funding.

An example of how reinstating AS level Maths option and introducing a Core Maths course in year 12 could affect the premium:

Qualification	2015-16	2016-17	Baseline	2018-19
AS level Mathematics only	30	28	29	15
A level Mathematics	23	15	19	35
AS level Further Mathematics	4	0	2	4
A level Further Mathematics	1	5	3	4
Core Maths	0	0	0	15
Total	58	48	53	73

In this case the Advanced Maths Premium for payment in the 2019-20 funding allocation is $20 \times \text{£}600 = \text{£}12000$.

Support for Level 3 Mathematics

In July 2017 the DfE announced a new £16m support programme in response to Professor Sir Adrian Smith's review of post-16 mathematics. MEI, in conjunction with Tribal Education, will provide an extensive programme of support which is due to commence in May 2018. The programme will be called the **Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP)**, and will initially run for 2 years.

Current FMSP support will transfer to the new programme during the summer term 2018. The AMSP will continue the successful work of the FMSP, providing support for students and teachers for AS and A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics, and will in addition provide support for Core Maths. [Further details](#) are available on the FMSP website

MEI's survey into uptake of Mathematics AS/A levels

At the end of the autumn 2017 term, MEI conducted a national survey of schools and colleges offering A levels to try to establish how uptake of the mathematics AS/A levels and Core Maths has changed between academic years 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Over 500 schools and colleges responded. Comparing 2017-18 with 2016-17, the analysis suggests:

1. There has been an overall reduction (just under 10%) in the number of Year 12 students starting AS/A level Mathematics
2. The number of students starting AS/A level Further Mathematics has not changed significantly
3. The uptake of Core Maths continues to grow
4. Overall, there has been an increase in the GCSE Mathematics grades which schools and colleges require students to achieve before allowing them to start AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics programmes

In addition to these findings the survey also looked at the "standard" A level offer for students starting courses in year 12 and the way schools and colleges organised the teaching of A level Further Mathematics courses.

The [full report](#) 'Investigating the impact of curriculum and funding changes on level 3 mathematics uptake' and a separate [Executive Summary](#) can be found on the MEI website.