

Teaching Further Mathematics (TFM)

Frequently asked questions

- How much does TFM cost?
- How does the subsidy for delegates teaching in state-funded schools/colleges work? Can I pay my own course fee and if so, do I receive a reimbursement?
- When do the TFM course fees have to be paid?
- Do I need to have taught A level Maths before doing the TFM course?
- Do I need to be currently working in a school or college to enrol on the course?
- Will the TFM course help prepare me to teach the new AS and A levels in Further Maths?
- I have not taught Further Maths before and will be learning the material for the first time. Is this course for me?
- I am already teaching A level Further Mathematics but would like further ideas and a deeper understanding of the pedagogy. Is this course for me?
- Is TFM hard?
- How much time will I need to devote to studying?
- Do I have to hand in any assignments?
- Do I have to sign up for both units, TFM1 and TFM2, at the start of the course?
- Can I do TFM1 this year and then take a break and then enrol in TFM2 the following year?
- How much time is devoted to the mathematical content and how much is devoted to discussing pedagogy?
- What happens if I can't attend one or more of the study days?
- What equipment do I need to join a live online session for TFM?
- What happens if I miss a live session, can I catch up?
- As well as learning about topics in Further Pure, I'd like to have some support for applied modules, is this possible?
- What happens after I have submitted an application for TFM? When will I know if my application has been successful?
- What happens if I withdraw from the course?

If you have any further questions please contact: Sharon Tripconey, TFM Course Leader
sharon.tripconey@mei.org.uk

Advanced Mathematics Support Programme

How much does TFM cost?

The fee for TFM1 unit is £300 and the fee for TFM2 unit is £300.

The AMSP is supported by the Department for Education and teachers working in state-funded schools or colleges in England are eligible to receive a subsidy on completion of the course. The course fee, paid in full on enrolment, will be reimbursed on completion of the course unit and no later than one month after the end date of the course unit.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

How does the subsidy for delegates teaching in state-funded schools/colleges work? Can I pay my own course fee and if so, do I receive a reimbursement?

The AMSP is supported by the Department for Education and teachers working in state-funded schools or colleges in England are eligible for a subsidy to cover the cost of the course. The course fee (£300), paid in full at the time of enrolment, is reimbursed at the end of the course. If the course fee is paid by the applicant's school or college then the same school or college will be reimbursed when the course is completed by the applicant. If the course fee is paid directly by the applicant then the applicant will be reimbursed on completion of the course. In the latter case, it is a requirement that the applicant submits an email address that has been issued by the state-funded school/college where they are employed and that the applicant's email address is substantiated.

A reimbursement will be paid if there is evidence that the course delegate has engaged with the course content and has not withdrawn before the end date of the course unit. Evidence of engagement includes attendance of at face-to-face study days, participation in online tutorials and forum discussions and submission of the unit assignment issued at the end of the course. If a delegate is unable to engage in one or more aspects of the course and this is due to unforeseen or special circumstances then a reimbursement may still be granted at the discretion of the Course Leader. For example, if a delegate is unable to attend a study day due to sudden illness and they inform the Course Leader at the time, then they will not be penalised and the full course fee would be reimbursed.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

When do the TFM course fees have to be paid?

An invoice for course unit fee is issued after enrolment at the start of the course unit. Invoices are issued no later than one month after a delegate has started their course.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

Do I need to have taught A level Maths before doing the TFM course?

There is no requirement that applicants have taught A level Mathematics before enrolling on TFM however, much of the pure content of A level Mathematics is assumed knowledge. If you would like support with teaching A level Mathematics content then it is recommended that you consider the [Teaching A level Mathematics \(TAM\)](#) before enrolling on TFM.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

Do I need to be currently working in a school or college to enrol on the course?

No, this is not a requirement.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

Advanced Mathematics Support Programme

Will the TFM course help prepare me to teach the reformed AS and A levels in Further Maths?

From September 2017, A level Further Mathematics in England has 50% of its content prescribed by the DfE. See the [Further Mathematics content](#) for full details. The remaining 50% of the content is determined by each Awarding Organisation. AS level Further Mathematics has 30% prescribed content with 70% determined by the Awarding Organisations. The Teaching Further Mathematics (TFM) course covers the content prescribed by the DfE and will provide coverage of most but not all of the further pure content that is included by the awarding organisations in their specifications. TFM only covers pure maths content. The TFM course is structured in such a way as to preserve the coherence of the subject content; presenting mathematics in an interconnected way.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

I have not taught Further Maths before and will be learning the material for the first time. Is this course for me?

If you are studying the mathematical content of the course for the first time and you are prepared to dedicate time for regular self-study and consolidation then this course is suitable for you. At the start of the course a handbook is issued which outlines the dates and details for the online tutorials, periods for independent study and preparation and the dates for the face-to face study days. The online tutorials focus on developing subject knowledge for each main topic of the course; outlining the key ideas and concepts. It is expected that delegates embrace the opportunity to engage with the online sessions and take responsibility to acquire knowledge and ideas by preparing in advance, asking questions and working through activities and exercises to consolidate their own learning. The face-to-face study days are designed to build on the subject knowledge covered in the online tutorials, strengthen understanding by making links and extending mathematical ideas. The study days provide an opportunity to explore classroom resources and discuss teaching approaches.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

I am already teaching A level Further Mathematics but would like further ideas and a deeper understanding of the pedagogy. Is this course for me?

The TFM course is primarily designed for teachers who want to develop their own subject knowledge to be able to teach A level Further Mathematics with confidence. Teachers who are new to teaching Further Mathematics or teachers who want to teach it in the near future will find the course an excellent way to help them prepare however, many course participants who are already teaching Further Mathematics say that they have benefited from the course, having gained deeper insights and that as a result their A level teaching has become far more effective.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

Is TFM hard?

This depends on what you interpret as 'hard'! The mathematical content covers the pure mathematics topics that feature in A level Further Mathematics. Course delegates will have the opportunity to think more deeply about the concepts and make links within the topics. Delegates, if they wish, can explore the concepts beyond the confines of the A level specifications; having access to a range of extension material. There is also support for delegates who are meeting the concepts for the first time and need support in mastering the fundamental concepts. TFM is offered as two units, TFM1 and TFM2. To progress on to TFM2, it is important to be grounded with TFM1. Some delegates who complete TFM1 then choose to take a break in their studies before progressing on to TFM2 the following year. Delegates who have done TFM report that the 'hard' part is managing all their commitments as well as devoting time to TFM. Many say that TFM is a rewarding challenge.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

Advanced Mathematics Support Programme

How much time will I need to devote to studying?

It is difficult to be specific about the amount of time needed for study as this will vary from delegate to delegate depending on previous qualifications and experience. In the past, successful delegates have reported to have spent between 2 and 8 hours studying each week. Ideally, delegates should aim to study regularly for a few hours each week however, in reality many working teachers have weeks when this is difficult and they use out-of-term time to catch up.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

Do I have to hand in any assignments?

The TFM course is an MEI-certificated course. To qualify for a certificate will need to submit and pass an assignment at the end of the unit. The assignment requires you to submit handwritten solutions for an exam-style paper; producing a list of common student errors and misconceptions relating to each question on the paper. In addition, you will be required to give a brief outline of a teaching idea or resource for each question that could be used to address one or more of the errors and misconceptions listed. Certification is optional but we strongly encourage delegates to submit an assignment to help them consolidate what they have learnt. In particular, a good grasp of TFM1 is required before progression on to TFM2.

Important: If you are a teacher working at a state-funded school then to be eligible for a course subsidy you will need to demonstrate that you have engaged with the course which includes the expectation that you will submit an assignment at the end of the course. More details are provided in the response to the FAQ: [How does the subsidy for delegates working in state-funded schools/colleges work?](#)

Do I have to sign up for both units, TFM1 and TFM2, at the start of the course?

No, you can just sign up for TFM1 first and then decide at a later date if you wish to continue with TFM2.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

Can I do TFM1 this year and then take a break and then enrol in TFM2 the following year?

Yes this is possible if you enrol on TFM1 in July however, if you are progressing well with TFM1, it is wise to keep going and enrol in TFM2 straight after TFM1. TFM1 is a prerequisite for TFM2 and delegates who take a break in between units will need to refresh the content of TFM1. If you enrol on TFM1 in January then you will automatically have a break as TFM2 is only scheduled to start once a year in February.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

How much time is devoted to the mathematical content and how much is devoted to discussing pedagogy?

The TFM course mainly focuses on improving subject knowledge. Pedagogical discussions are embedded throughout the course. The mathematical content of the course is coordinated by the unit tutors through study plans using textbooks, online sessions and study days. The online sessions tend to outline concepts and look at specific material and examples and the study days tend to have more focus on teaching ideas and enriching activities. There is an opportunity to engage fellow course participants in discussion about content or pedagogy through an online discussion forum.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

What happens if I can't attend one or more of the study days?

Teachers on the course enjoy the study days and appreciate the chance to meet up with fellow students. Dates and venues for the study days are published in advanced at the time of enrolment and it is expected that all delegates attend the study days however, if due to unforeseen circumstances, you are unable to attend one or more of the study days then you will be able to catch up with the materials and presentations

Advanced Mathematics Support Programme

as these will be shared with all delegates afterwards. If you pass the end of unit assignment, you will still be eligible for a TFM course certificate.

Important: If you are a teacher working at a state-funded school then to be eligible for a course fee reimbursement you will need to demonstrate that you have engaged with the course which includes the expectation that you will attend the face-to-face study days. More details are provided in the response to the FAQ: [How does the subsidy for delegates working in state-funded schools/colleges work?](#)

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

What equipment do I need to join a live online session for TFM?

You need a computer with a reliable internet connection and an audio output device (e.g. speakers or a headset / earphones). If you want to interact fully then a USB headset with a microphone is recommended to provide the best sound quality and to prevent audio issues for other users.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

What happens if I miss a live session, can I catch up?

All live online sessions are recorded. After each live session, all delegates enrolled on the course will be able to playback each session. Delegates are encouraged to attend live sessions.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

As well as learning about topics in Further Pure, I'd like to have some support for applied modules, is this possible?

The TFM course covers the pure mathematics topics within an A level further mathematics qualification.

Sustained PD courses in [Teaching Mechanics](#) , [Teaching Statistics](#) and [Teaching Discrete Mathematics](#) are available through the AMSP however, for a full-time teacher, it not advisable to enrol on an additional sustained professional development course at the same time as studying TFM.

The AMSP also provides online courses for small groups of teachers through their [Live Online Professional Development \(LOPD\)](#) programme. Please see <http://furthermaths.org.uk/cpd> for more details about the PD opportunities through the AMSP.

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

What happens after I have submitted an application for TFM? When will I know if my application has been successful?

For full details please read the document 'Stages in the application and enrolment process' which can be found at <http://furthermaths.org.uk/tfm>

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

What happens if I withdraw from the course?

Please refer to the terms and conditions for MEI's CPD events: <http://www.mei.org.uk/terms-cpd>

[Return to the list of FAQs](#)

Advanced Mathematics Support Programme

Further information

The **Advanced Mathematics Support Programme** is a government-funded initiative, supported by the Department for Education and is managed by MEI working in partnership with Tribal Education.

The AMSP's aims are to

- increase participation in AS/A level Further Mathematics and AS/A level Mathematics
- increase participation in Core Maths
- improve the quality of teaching
- increase the number of students studying STEM degrees

Find out more about the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme:

furthermaths.org.uk/amsp

Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI) is a membership organisation and a charity which since the 1960s has worked to support mathematics teaching and learning. Any income generated is used to support mathematics education. MEI pioneers the development of innovative mathematics qualifications and teaching and learning resources. MEI offer teachers of all GCSE, Core Maths and A level specifications a range of professional development courses.

Find out more about Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI):

www.mei.org.uk

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