

Teaching Mechanics (TM)

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- What happens if I miss a live session, can I catch up?
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- What happens if I withdraw from the course?

If you have any further questions please contact: Sue de Pomerai , TM Course Leader
sue.depomerai@mei.org.uk

How much does TM cost?

The fee for TM1 or TM2 is £300. Teachers working in state-funded schools or colleges in England are eligible for a subsidy which covers the cost of the full course fee (£300). Teachers working in state-funded schools or colleges in England are eligible to receive a subsidy on completion of the course.

Delegates who wish to study at masters level will need to pay an additional fee (in 2016/17 the masters fees were £550 per unit and it is expected that the fee will be the same for 2017/18). This fee is not currently subsidised. If you have any queries about studying at masters level, including queries about the fees then contact Sue de Pomerai, Masters Link Tutor: sue.depomerai@mei.org.uk

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How does the subsidy for delegates teaching in state-funded schools/colleges work? Can I pay my own course fee and if so, does the rebate get paid to me or my school?

The FMSP is supported by the DfE and therefore only course fees for teachers working in state-funded schools or colleges in England are eligible for a subsidy.

On completion of the course, a rebate of £300 is paid out reimburse the course fee that was paid in full at the time of enrolment:

- If the course fee is paid by the applicant's school or college then the same school or college will receive the rebate when the course is completed by the applicant.
- If the course fee is paid directly by the applicant then the applicant will receive the rebate 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.
- The rebate will be paid if there is evidence that the course delegate has engaged with the course content and has not withdrawn before the end date of the course unit.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 rebate will 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 would still qualify for a rebate.

The rebate will be paid on completion of the course unit and no later than one month after the end date of the course unit.

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Do I need to have taught A level Maths before doing the TM1 course?

There is no requirement that applicants have taught A level Mathematics before starting TM1

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

No, this is not a requirement but you must be working in a state-funded institution to qualify for a fee rebate.

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

The Teaching Mechanics course has been written specifically for the Mathematics and Further Mathematics A levels in 2017. The course will enable teachers to develop their own subject knowledge and classroom practice in teaching Mechanics for A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. TM1 covers the compulsory content for the new linear A level and TM2 covers material from the Further Maths specifications

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I have not taught mechanics 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 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 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 use the opportunity to engage with the online sessions by 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.

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I am already teaching some mechanics but would like further ideas and a deeper understanding of the pedagogy. Is this course for me?

The TM course is designed for teachers who want to develop their own subject knowledge to be able to teach mechanics with confidence in an interesting and engaging way. Many course participants are already teaching mechanics report that they have benefited from the course, having gained deeper insights and many new ideas for how to teach the topics.

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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. Ideally, delegates should aim to study regularly each week however, in reality many working teachers have weeks when this is difficult and they use out-of-term time to catch up.

If you decide to enrol on the masters programme this would require additional study time.

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Do I have to hand in any assignments?

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 full 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.

If you choose the TM option with Masters credits, submission of this assignment is compulsory. You will also need to write an essay which is marked by your university tutor.

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?](#)

Can I do TM1 this year and then take a break and then enrol in TM2 the following year?

Yes this is possible. TM2 is scheduled once a year; starting in February. And you can enrol at any stage.

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I am not sure whether I want to commit to the Masters qualification immediately, will I have chance to change my mind after I have submitted my TM application?

Yes, enrolment on the Masters Programme at Plymouth takes place in late September and you will have the option to either opt out or opt in early in September. The programme is designed to be flexible so you can decide to undertake the Masters level work in the year after you after you have studied the MEI course.

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I'd like to enrol in the Masters element, how often will need to travel to Plymouth University if I enrol in the Masters part?

There is no requirement to travel to Plymouth. Delegates enrolling in the Masters will be supported through flexible online tutorials. For more details about the Masters element of TM please contact Sue de Pomerai, the Masters Link Tutor: sue.depomerai@mei.org.uk

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

The MEI certificated 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 online resources, online tutorials and study days. The online tutorials 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.

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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. As there are study days held on a Saturday, this makes it feasible for most delegates to attend but 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 as these will be shared with all delegates afterwards. If you pass the end of unit assignment, you will still be eligible for a TM course certificate.

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 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?](#)

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

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.

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

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

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What happens after I have submitted an application for TM? 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 is available at <http://furthermaths.org.uk/teaching-mechanics>

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>

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