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Teaching Mathematics as a Career (TeMaC)

**Code of practice for
mathematics departments in
higher education**



Introduction

The LMS Code of Practice for Teaching Mathematics as a Career (TeMaC) has been developed to support university mathematics departments in encouraging their students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) to consider a career teaching mathematics.

The rationale for this initiative is simple: in order to turn the tide on a lack of suitably qualified subject specialists teaching mathematics in schools, we should look to the source of this supply: university mathematics departments.

This code of practice creates a systematic approach to delivering activities that will allow all students in mathematics departments to explore what teaching mathematics as a career might be like for them.

It has been designed to be 'light-touch' to administer, so that all departments feel able to sign up to the code. By signing up to the code, departments will also become part of a national community of practice which will allow departments to access and share initiatives, activities and delivery ideas that have been developed elsewhere.

While the code proposes that departments will engage in four distinct categories of activity (see page 4), we would expect departments to commit to delivering and/or advertising activities in at least two of the four categories listed in their first year and to build up in a sustainable manner (over a period of 2–3 years) until they have activities in each of the four categories.

Building a community of practice

Web presence

The webpage <https://www.lms.ac.uk/policy/education/temac> provides core information about this initiative. This will be updated regularly, highlighting activities that have been delivered by departments along with 'How to' guides on running these activities within mathematics departments and, where appropriate, departmental contacts.

Networking events

There will be an annual networking event hosted by the LMS for departmental contacts which will include examples of successful activities, round-table discussions on the challenges of effectively delivering the Code of Practice and discussions around latest developments in teacher training specifically for mathematics students. We hope to run the first of these events in January 2022.

Department contacts will also be provided with a list of contacts in participating mathematics departments to facilitate informal networking activity.

Time commitment for TeMaC contact

We anticipate that departmental TeMaC contacts should expect to commit a baseline of 5 hours per year to this role, mainly signposting students to opportunities that are available to them to explore teaching maths as a career. Additional time will be needed to attend events such as the annual networking event, to which every departmental contact will be invited.

This role may effectively be taken on by a colleague in the department with an outreach remit or one who is involved in careers advice and support.

Code of Practice

By signing up to the Code of Practice, departments commit to actively promote teaching mathematics as a career to students enrolled on programmes in mathematics departments in higher education.

This will best be achieved by undertaking a range of different activities. In particular, departments should undertake each of the following four activities in any academic year:

- **Information/dissemination activity**
Examples include: talk by a local teacher training provider; promoting institutional careers talks on teaching as a career.
- **Teaching in schools**
Examples include: promoting institutional outreach opportunities to work in local schools; promoting the Researchers in Schools programme (PhD students only); advertising routes into teaching and teaching bursaries.
- **Outreach activity**
Examples include: institutional outreach activities; department outreach events.
- **Departmental links to school teaching**
Examples include: host alumni event for school teachers; establish links and programmes of activities with local schools.

Note: The LMS, through the TeMaC initiative, will provide departmental contacts with relevant promotional information for distribution to students and will also be able to provide links to local teacher training programmes.

How to sign up and what it means

To sign up, departments should provide the name and contact details of a colleague who will act as the point of contact for the LMS TeMaC initiative. This should be sent by email to education@lms.ac.uk.

By signing up, departments will agree to undertake, on an annual basis, activities corresponding to each of the four areas as outlined above. In some cases, it may be most appropriate for departments to gradually build up their work in this area such that they achieve engagement with each area after two years of signing the Code of Practice.

Collecting data

The LMS may wish to collect some anonymous student data associated with this initiative and we would expect departments to help distribute occasional surveys in order to achieve this goal. All such exercises will be fully compliant with data protection regulations.

Contact us

If you have any questions or comments about this initiative please send them to education@lms.ac.uk.

