

Case Study – Transition to University

Name Nathanial Strong
School Hawthorn High School
University University of Bath
Studying Natural Sciences with professional placement

What happened after you passed your Further Maths exam?

After receiving my results last August, I was accepted onto my course at the University of Bath, which was my first-choice university. I received confirmation of my place from the university on results day and moved in at the end of September. Since then, then things have been very busy, with lectures and all the extracurricular activities that university life has to offer.

Do you think that studying Further Maths through FMSP Wales has helped your transition to University?

I think that studying Further Maths helped ease the transition to university in a few ways. One of the most important things I gained from studying Further Maths was an improvement in my independent study skills. One of the major differences between school learning and university learning is the heavier emphasis on independent learning at university. Through studying Further Maths online, I had to be a lot more independent than I was with my other A-levels as I was the only student in my school studying Further Maths. This benefitted me a lot in the transition to university, by allowing me to manage my workload better as a lot of my time is now spent reviewing lecture material independently. FMSP also introduced me to a different style of teaching than I was used to at school. Teaching was often delivered in the style of a lecture, which helped me get used to this style of teaching before starting university.

Are there any ways that you feel Further Maths specifically helped?

Although I'm not studying mathematics as a degree, I was still keen to continue my study of maths at university, so I am taking a maths module as part of my degree. Further Maths has helped with this as I was already familiar with some of the concepts covered in the module. As an example, studying Further Maths made me very confident in dealing with differential equations, a topic which I have covered in detail in the modelling part of my maths module. I've also found Further Maths helpful in parts of my degree that aren't directly related to maths. For example, in the chemistry component of my degree, polar coordinates were looked at and I was already familiar with this topic from my study of Further Maths. In general, I've found that the problem solving and critical thinking skills that I learned through studying Further Maths have been applicable to all areas of my degree.



Would you recommend studying Further Maths and why?

I would absolutely recommend studying Further Maths with FMSPW to anyone thinking of doing so. As I have mentioned before, Further Maths taught me valuable study skills that made the transition from school to university a lot easier. Also, the Further Maths course provides an interesting challenge to those who have studied A-level maths. The concepts taught in Further Maths will help anyone wanting to study a STEM degree and often provide a useful insight into undergraduate level study material. I also liked how the lecturers encouraged students to read around topics to broaden their knowledge of maths beyond the scope of the exam specification. This helped to increase my interest in maths and made me want to continue studying maths in some form at university. Studying with FMSP is a great way to study Further Maths, as the support I was given was excellent. The lecturers were always very helpful when I asked questions in the online sessions or via email. FMSP also held multiple revision sessions throughout the year, which proved to be very helpful.