

Case Study – Transition to University

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Studying Engineering

What happened after you passed your Further Maths exam?

I achieved 4 A* and was accepted into my first choice university. you take 2 years of general engineering, following which you choose which to specialise in.

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

I took Further Maths because I like Maths. The course seemed interesting, and it was my favourite subject at school and I was advised to take it as I was interested in studying an engineering degree. I had considered Further Maths as I wanted to keep my options open. I took it generally because I enjoy maths, rather than it being because of the University I wanted to go to.

I asked the year 12 students when I was in year 11, and they said take Further Maths, they said it would be hard and thus that's another reason why I took it, I like the challenge.

Taking A Level Further Maths has definitely helped, I don't think I'd be understanding the course if I hadn't studied Further Maths. I had to be self-motivated and disciplined to study outside of school and I had to do background work which was good.

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

Using the Integral website for researching topics was part of the course and that was really useful because in school we'd never use other websites, FMSPW makes you do it yourself. The integral site was really cool and could find any of the topics and go over them again. Lots of exercises to do yourself so have to do on your own. If you don't understand it's up to you to ask, different from school, the fact that I was the only person in my school meant that I didn't have peers to ask in school if I didn't understand something and that has definitely helped me now. Travelling and making sure you get somewhere by yourself and managing your time has been beneficial to me now.

Complex numbers, differential equations, vectors and matrices have definitely helped with my degree.

The study days really helped, they were great and it was good meeting your teachers in real life. I went there for the handouts and past paper questions. I based a lot of my revision on those papers. This gave me the opportunity to ask the face-to-face questions.

Would you recommend studying Further Maths and why?

I would advise everyone to definitely take Further Maths for a Maths heavy degree like engineering, computer science, it will give you an advantage, you would fall behind without it in a Russell group university, a lot of content will be based on Further Maths. Also it is fun, if you do Further Maths then A Level maths will be easier.

Another student that I'm friends with is doing computer science and they did A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and computer science and they would agree that Further Maths is good for computer science as well.

All of my degree is Maths, all units contain a mainly Maths. My degree is very theoretical.

I would recommend studying Further Maths but it is going to be hard, the jump is hard from GCSE to A Level. It takes time to understand. I studied A Level Maths at the same time as Further Maths which meant that we hadn't covered topics before.

I was very thankful because I wouldn't have been able to study FM without FMSPWales. The teachers were amazing. Students should definitely have a go at Further Maths if thinking about it. It takes time but it is doable and rewarding when you get it right. Getting an A* in Further Maths is something to be proud of. Ask a lot of questions, my experience is that FMSP tutors are very good at answers questions.

It was good to study FM through FMSPWales.