

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

What qualifications do I need?

You need to have achieved, or be predicted to achieve, at least a 2(i) honours degree. If your degree classification is lower but you hold a PhD or Masters qualification or confirmed equivalent you will also be eligible as they equate to a First and a 2(i) respectively.

Do I need a maths degree to apply for a Scholarship?

No, however, you will either need a degree with a strong mathematical content, or have extensive mathematical professional experience, or you have undertaken (or are undertaking) a Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) course in Mathematics.

Can I apply if I have a 2:2 degree classification?

Yes, you are welcome to apply but you need to demonstrate significant relevant experience.

I have a 2:2 degree classification and the application criteria say that I 'may also be eligible if you bring significant relevant experience'. What does 'significant relevant experience' mean?

We will consider applications from those that have a 2:2 degree classification where there is strong evidence of subject knowledge together with either more advanced study or some relevant experience, such as mathematical professional or teaching experience and/or experience of work with young people.

What types of 'advanced study' are you looking for?

If you have a 2:2 degree classification, then we are looking for evidence that you have achieved the minimum level of education (2:1) that we require successful Scholars to have. Examples of advanced study include a relevant Masters degree or PhD.

What sort of 'relevant experience of work with young people' are you looking for?

We are looking for a real desire to teach and the teaching may not necessarily be in mathematics. Examples include undertaking a Mathematics education module as part of your university degree programme, attendance at Mathematics education conferences, being the coach of the local rugby team.

Does an Oxbridge MA count as a Masters degree?

As Oxbridge MAs are not an academic qualification awarded by examination, it does not fulfil our Masters requirements.

What does 'extensive professional mathematical experience' mean?

'Extensive professional mathematical experience' means that an individual has used degree level mathematics as part of their role in industry and are therefore able to demonstrate that they have the level of education that we require successful Scholars to have.

I want to do my initial teacher training outside England, can I still apply?

The Scholarships are only available for those undertaking their initial teacher training in England.

Can I apply if I am not a recent graduate?

Yes, we welcome applications from those who are not classed as a recent graduate and are thinking of embarking on a new career.

Can I apply if I am in my final year of my degree?

Yes, providing your predicted grade is a 2(i) or above.

Can I apply if I live overseas?

To be eligible for the scholarship you must qualify as a home student, be eligible to draw a tuition fee loan from the Student Loans Company and meet the bursary eligibility criteria set out in the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) [bursary guidance](#). A home student is one that is eligible for the provision of UK student support, more information can be found at [Gov.UK](#).

I have an overseas degree; will I be able to apply?

Yes, providing your degree is equivalent to the UK degree requirements stated above.

The NCTL, part of the Department for Education (DfE), commissioned a grade comparison exercise, carried out by UK NARIC, of all international awards that are considered comparable to British Bachelor (Honours) degree standard. Applicants with a degree from outside the UK should refer to the [equivalency table](#) to see if their degree is likely to attract a bursary, or should consult their chosen training provider.

Do you need to see proof that my overseas degree is equivalent to a UK degree?

Yes. When submitting your application, you will need to provide copies of a NARIC Statement of Comparability and your transcripts for your first degree as we are unable to return the originals to you.

If you do not have a NARIC Statement of Comparability, please use the [equivalency table](#) to demonstrate how your overseas degree is comparable to a UK degree. Please note, when applying for teacher training through the [UCAS Teacher Training](#) website, if you have non-UK qualifications, you will need a Statement of Comparability from [NARIC](#).

My overseas degree is comparable to a 'Bachelor degree'. Is this eligible?

According to NARIC, this degree demonstrates elements of both an Ordinary and Honours degree, but will not necessarily be directly comparable to one of these degree types. Therefore, you are required to submit a copy of your degree transcripts with your application for further consideration.

I've responded 'no' to the question that asks if I'm an EU National and/or if I've been a resident in the EU in the past three years. Am I eligible?

Depending on your circumstances you may be eligible. You will need to demonstrate how you qualify as a home student for the purpose of paying tuition fees by your training provider. One way of doing this is by having been resident in the UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland for

the past three years and having the right to live in the UK or EEA without any visa restrictions. If you are still unsure, contact the [Students Loans Company](#), to find out if you are eligible for a student loan. This confirmation is needed before submitting your application.

I'm already doing my teacher training, can I apply?

The Scholarships are only available for those who commence their teacher training in the academic year 2015/16. If you have already started your teaching training in this academic year you are not eligible to apply.

Teacher Training

Do I need to already have an offer of a PGCE place?

You do not need to already have your teacher training place organised to apply for the Scholarship, but by September 2015 you must have secured your training place on an eligible PGCE or unsalaried School Direct mathematics course in England for the 2015/16 academic year. The decision for entry onto a PGCE course will be made by the teacher training provider. If you are offered a Maths Scholarship but unsuccessful in securing a place on an eligible PGCE or School Direct course by September 2015 the Scholarship offer will be withdrawn.

Can I apply if I apply for a Scholarship if I apply for the School Direct Training Programme (salaried) course?

A School Direct salaried student would not be entitled to a Scholarship, as they are employed rather than training.

I am planning on applying to Teach First to teach Maths, does this qualify me for the scholarship?

Those undertaking Teach First are not eligible to apply for a Scholarship.

Does the IMA arrange my teacher training course?

No, the Scholarship will be awarded independently of your teacher training. You must apply for a mathematics teacher training place and receive an offer before starting in September 2015. You can apply for our Scholarship at any time in this process.

Can I apply for other teacher training courses at the same time?

You are free to apply for other teacher training routes but will only be permitted to accept a Maths Teacher Training Scholarship if you choose an eligible PGCE or School Direct route.

Can I do my teacher training part time and still receive the Scholarship?

You are still eligible for the same Scholarship, but the payments will be spread out throughout your training period.

What PGCEs are eligible?

Eligible PGCEs are those that contain at least 50% mathematics.

Is a Physics with Mathematics PGCE eligible for a Mathematics Scholarship?

This depends on the amount of mathematics on the course. If it is under 50% then it is not eligible for a Mathematics Scholarship but would be for a Physics Scholarship run by the [Institute of Physics](#). Please visit their website for details.

Can I apply whilst I'm doing my Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) course?

You can apply at any time but we will be assessing your maths knowledge, so you may prefer to wait until you have completed your SKE course. You can always express your intention of applying by emailing us at Scholarships@ima.org.uk. Keep an eye on the deadline dates.

Scholarship Funding

How much is the Scholarship worth?

If you are successful you will receive a £25,000 tax-free award. There is also considerable value in the additional benefits that you will receive.

How will I be paid my Scholarship?

Your Initial Teacher Training provider will administer the bursary which is funded by the NCTL on behalf of the Department for Education. The £25,000 will be paid to you in equal monthly instalments for the duration of your course, with enhanced payments in February and July or in the final month of the course.

Will I also receive the government bursary?

If you are awarded a Mathematics Scholarship it will be instead of the government's training bursary, you will not be eligible for both.

If awarded a Scholarship and during my ITT course I decide not to complete it, do I have to repay the Scholarship?

The Scholarships are paid by the Department for Education and in the same way that the Government bursary is paid; in equal monthly instalments for the duration of your course and administered by your ITT provider. If you decided to not complete the PGCE, then the payments to you are stopped, but you do not repay the funding that you have already received.

Applying

How do I apply?

Applications are made via an online system. Please ensure that you have read the information provided about the application process and use the sample application form and maths test before completing your application as you are not able to save your application part way through completion.

Do you advise applicants of their scores for the Initial Maths Test?

Due to the lack of resources, we are unable to do this.

Do you provide answers to the Initial Maths Test?

The answers to the Initial Maths Test are not published.

I've just learned of the Scholarships and the closing date for applications is imminent. Will there be further application rounds?

There will be a total of six application rounds. Please visit the [How to apply](#) web page for the dates of the application rounds.

I'm currently on a Subject Knowledge Enhancement course as part of a conditional PGCE offer, should I apply now or wait until I've completed it?

You can apply at any time but we will be assessing your subject knowledge, so you may prefer to wait until you have completed your SKE course. You can always express your intention of applying by emailing us at Scholarships@ima.org.uk. Please visit the [How to apply](#) web page for the dates of the application rounds.

I would like to apply, but I have things planned (i.e. holidays, travelling, work experience etc) so I am not sure if I will be able to attend the Assessment Centre/Final Interview.

If you know of any dates that you are not available to attend an Assessment Centre/Final Interview, please complete the appropriate section in the application form and we will do our best to accommodate you. The dates of the Assessment Centres/Final Interviews will be published in due course. If you are still unsure just email Scholarships@ima.org.uk to register your interest

What happens next?

If you are successful at this stage you will be invited to attend an Assessment Centre where you will participate in group activities and undergo a more rigorous written mathematics test. The final stage will be a formal interview. You may wish to visit a school to gain some recent observational experience.

The Selection Stages

When will the Assessment Centres and Formal Interviews be held?

The dates of the Assessment Centres/Final Interviews will be published in due course.

Are there certain dates for the Assessment Centres/Interviews associated with the different application rounds?

No. Assessment Centres and Interviews are scheduled at various times and locations in England so that you can attend one that is convenient for you.

Are Assessment Centres/Interviews held at the weekend?

Assessment Centres and Interviews are normally held Monday to Friday during normal working hours.

What should I do if the Assessment Date/Final Interview date is not convenient?

Please inform us as soon as possible as we may be able to offer your slot to someone else. It would also be helpful if you can advise us when you are available and should where you live change.

What should I do if I'm ill on the day of my Assessment Centre/Interview?

Inform us as soon as possible as we are more than happy to rearrange your Assessment Centre/Interview. We appreciate that these things happen and that you may not perform at your best.

What happens if I don't show up to my Assessment Centre/Interview?

If you do not turn up to your Assessment Centre/Interview and haven't informed us, then your application will not progress any further.

Is there a dress code for the Assessment Centres/Final Interviews?

Whilst there is not a specific dress code, we think a smart/casual dress is appropriate.

Are there any practice test papers available for the written maths test?

There are no practice tests available.

What level of maths does the written maths test contain?

The written maths test assesses your application of mathematical knowledge and problem solving skills at broadly at first year undergraduate level. It will typically consist a choice of questions on linear algebra (especially matrices), complex numbers, calculus (including partial differentiation), modelling/problem solving questions and basic statistics and probability.

What topics might come up in the discussion that is specifically related to teaching?

We have a range of topics that we can choose from, but the main thing is that we are looking for opinions not detailed knowledge – there are no correct answers. You will be assessed on your participation in the discussion, communication skills including listening and thinking skills and how you react to the range of views and opinions from the other candidates.

How and when will I know if I'm successful?

If you are to be awarded with a Scholarship you will be notified after attending the final interview. You will need to secure a place on an eligible PGCE or School Direct course in order for the Scholarship to be validated.

If you have any further questions, email Scholarships@ima.org.uk.