Mathematical Tripos

The Faulkes Institute of Geometry, completed in January 2002
1. **Introduction**

Part III is run by the Faculty of Mathematics, which is comprised of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP), and the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics (DPMMS). The Statistical Laboratory (Statslab for short) is a self-contained part of DPMMS comprising of those staff who work on mathematical statistics and probability.

All official Part III activity takes place at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences (CMS) in Clarkson Road, where there are lecture theatres, common rooms and a large Part III room. The latter is specifically provided for the use of Part III students. All members of DPMMS are located in Pavilions C, D and E at CMS. All members of DAMTP are based in Pavilions B, F, G and H.

This handbook provides administrative and other important information for Part III students and those responsible for advising them. In addition to this handbook students should consult the following documents. These are published alongside forms and links to other important information on www.maths.cam.ac.uk/postgrad/mathiii/current.html.

**Notes for New Part III Students**
This document outlines important arrangements for the start of the year, including information about the Introductory Meeting. All Part III students are issued with a copy prior to the start of Michaelmas term.

**Part III Guide to Courses**
This guide is updated annually and provides descriptions and information about all the Part III lecture courses offered in any given year. It is available both online and in hard-copy. The online version is populated over the course of the summer as course descriptions become available. It may be updated over the course of the year as required. A copy is distributed to students at the Introductory Meeting.

**Part III Essay booklet**
This booklet is published towards the end of Michaelmas term and provides information on essay topics offered in the current year. See Section 8 - Essays for further information.

There are many people who can offer advice or help to Part III students. See Section 4 - Points of Contact and Appendix I.
2. **Introductory Meeting**

At the start of the year, the Faculty holds an Introductory Meeting for all Part III students. This meeting is usually held on the first Wednesday of full Michaelmas term. The purpose of this meeting is to provide important information about the courses on offer as well as administrative arrangements. It is also an opportunity to meet other students and members of academic staff.

**In 2014/15 the Introductory Meeting will start at 9.30am on Wednesday 8 October in CMS and last most of the day. All Part III students are expected to attend this meeting.** The timetable for the Introductory Meeting is included in the *Note for Part III Students*. If for any reason you are unable to attend, you must contact the Graduate Office to ensure that you have obtained all relevant information.

Following on from the meeting, all Part III students are invited to attend the CMS Welcome Party in the Central Core and to take part in the annual Part III photograph.

3. **Departmental Registration**

Every Part III student **must** formally register with either DPMMS or DAMTP at the start of the academic year. Students may only register with one Department. Each Department is formally responsible for the students registered with it. Students may take courses offered by either Department, irrespective of their registration and are advised to register with the Department which most closely aligns with their academic interests (ie. the Department which offers the majority of courses that the student intends to take). If a student finds the balance of his/her choice of courses changes it is possible, though not essential, to change registration (see the Graduate Office).

Registration is via an online form which will be available on **Wednesday 8 October** from computers within the Part III room. Students will be required to log-in using their Raven password (which they will receive from University Information Service) and complete the necessary fields before submitting the form. As well as confirming personal details, students will be asked with which Department they wish to register and to also provide an indication of their academic fields of interest.

It is **vital** that students complete the online registration process. If they do not they will be in administrative limbo and this may have serious consequences. The registration process allows us to ensure that we have accurate information about who is here and who is not, and to ensure that students are on the correct mailing lists and receiving important information and reminders.

Students re-joining the Part III course after a period of intermission must re-register. Those re-joining in Michaelmas term may do so via the online form as outlined above. Those re-joining in Lent or Easter term should contact the Graduate Office directly.
4. Points of Contact

There are many people involved in the delivery of the Part III course and in supporting Part III students. This section details the main points of contact for Part III students. A list of named contacts and email addresses can be found in Appendix I.

Students are encouraged to seek advice when they need it. For further guidance on what to do and who to speak to if you encounter a particular problem see Section 12 - Resolving Problems.

Subject Advisers
In each field there is a Subject Adviser. The primary responsibilities of the Subject Adviser are to co-ordinate lectures and examples classes in their subject area and to act as a contact point for expertise in that area. Students are welcome to consult Subject Advisers as necessary. They are good people to approach for subject-specific advice, e.g. which universities are good for which specialities. If they do not know the answer they probably know who will.

Departmental Contact
Each Student will have a Departmental Contact. If you have registered with DAMTP, you will be notified who your Departmental Contact is towards the middle of Michaelmas term by email. If you have registered with DPMMS you will choose one of the Subject Advisers to be your Departmental Contact. S/he will be pleased to offer general advice and will be able to direct you to those with more detailed knowledge where appropriate. S/he is one of the people you might ask to write a reference for you. Your Departmental Contact will interview you twice during the year in order to check on your progress (see Section 9 - Progress Interviews).

Director of Studies
Your College will appoint a Director of Studies (DoS) for you. Your DoS can provide general mathematical advice, but his/her primary responsibilities are to check that you are making adequate progress. You must see your DoS at the beginning and end of each term. Copies of your progress interview forms will be sent to your DoS, and other reports on your progress may be sent to him/her by your Departmental Contact, and certain of the examples class instructors and supervisors. S/he is one of the people you might ask to write a reference for you. If your funding body needs a report on your progress, your DoS or College Tutor is the person to provide it. Your DoS is the person through whom you submit your choice of examination papers and your essay (if you have written one).

College Tutor
Your College Tutor takes an overview of your time in Cambridge and an interest in all aspects of your well-being. Tutors are at their students' disposal for all administrative and financial matters. S/he can provide advice and guidance if you encounter personal difficulties and may also want to see you at the beginning and end of each term. S/he may also receive reports on your progress.

Part III Course Directors
Each Department provides a named Part III Course Director who takes overall responsibility for the course and the students in his/her Department. The Course Directors may be approached at any time if you are encountering any difficulties. If you have an urgent matter you should make an appointment to see your Course Director at your earliest convenience.

Part III Committee
The Part III Committee advises the Faculty Board on the general running of Part III. A list of members is available from www.maths.cam.ac.uk/facultyboard/partiiicommittee/members.html. There are two postgraduate student representatives on the committee. Suggestions, praise and/or complaints about Part III should be communicated to a member of the committee. If you have a suggestion or complaint that you wish the committee to consider you can:
• discuss it with a member of the committee;
• e-mail the Faculty hotline (Hotline@maths.cam.ac.uk) noting that you want your message to be passed (anonymously) to the Part III Committee;
• write to the Chair of the Faculty Board of Mathematics who will pass your letter to the committee.

Although the Faculty Board is the ultimate decision-making body, it will normally send suggestions for changes to Part III to the Part III Committee for preliminary discussion.

The committee also administers the Part III End-of-Year survey which all students are asked to complete. Whether you are dissatisfied or not, this is an opportunity to provide detailed feedback on the course and your experience of Part III. This contains a certain number of questions to help elicit your opinion, but you should feel free to add extra comments to anything you wish. The survey results will be read carefully by the Heads of Department, the Part III Course Directors and by all members of the Part III Committee.

Faculty Board
The Faculty Board of Mathematics is ultimately responsible for Part III. A list of Board members is available from www.maths.cam.ac.uk/facultyboard/. There are both undergraduate and graduate student representatives on the Board. The representatives maintain a number of webpages of useful information (www.maths.cam.ac.uk/studentreps/).

Administration
Administrative support for the Part III course is currently shared between the Faculty’s Undergraduate and Graduate Offices. Each office has specific responsibilities which are outlined in Appendix 1. Routine enquiries should be directed to the relevant office. If you are uncertain where to direct your enquiry, please contact the Graduate Office in the first instance.

Cambridge University Graduate Mathematics Society (CUGMS)
A number of events and activities are organised via CUGMS, some of which are specifically for Part III students. Further information is available from cugms.soc.srcf.net. See also Section 10 - Support, Talks and Advice.
5. Lectures and Examples Classes

Lectures
Part III students take lecture courses, consisting either of 24 lectures (called a 3-unit course) or of 16 lectures (called a 2-unit course). Each course takes place in one of the three terms (Michaelmas, Lent, Easter). Examinations for all courses take place in the second half of the Easter term. Each student may take up to 19 units of courses for examination. Students may also submit an essay for examination credit. This counts as 3 units and is in place of a 3-unit lecture course. See Section 7 - Examinations and Assessment and Section 8 - Essays for further information.

Lectures are given over an eight week period in each of the Michaelmas and Lent terms and over a four week period in the Easter term. Lectures begin at 9.00am on Thursday 9 October. Lectures are usually in the mornings, and take place every day except Sunday (including Saturday). All Part III lectures will be held at CMS. Each lecture lasts for 50 minutes and starts at five minutes past the hour. Please be on time.

There is no requirement that students restrict their choice of courses to those given by one Department. Most students take courses from a small number of subject areas, but some take a wide variety. Courses may be selected freely from those available, within the constraints of the lecture timetable, which is arranged carefully to avoid, as far as possible, clashes between related courses. It is not possible for students to sit examination papers in two courses that are lectured at the same time (see Section 7 - Examinations and Assessment). The timetable is published at www.maths.cam.ac.uk/lecturelists.

After two to three weeks, your lecturer will hand out a form asking you your name, your college and email. The main use of this list is to allow your lecturer to contact the class by email. Completing this form does not commit you to attending future lectures.

Lectures proceed at a brisk rate, and a complete understanding of the material during lectures is not expected. You should try and appreciate the general outline of the material during lectures, and then work through the details afterwards. It is very important that you understand the details so that you can develop understanding of the overall structure of the ideas, and a full appreciation of the relationships between them. The depth of understanding needed in Part III is greater than in earlier Parts of the Mathematical Tripos or most undergraduate mathematics or physics degree courses elsewhere.

Further, you should take care to work through your lecture notes very soon after each lecture. At the beginning of each new lecture a good understanding of previous lectures will be assumed. Going through the lecture notes in detail shortly after each lecture will make it much easier to keep on top of the new material and to keep up with Part III. Most lecturers are happy to answer brief questions after lectures.

In exceptional circumstances, the Faculty Board can approve a reading course in addition to the lecture courses. This needs to be proposed by a member of the Faculty who agrees to prepare a syllabus for the course and to examine it. The Faculty Board will only approve such courses where they are convinced that there is a clear and important gap in the range of courses available. If you wish such an additional course to be considered you should contact the Subject Adviser in the relevant area as soon as possible in the Michaelmas term. All proposals must be submitted to the Faculty Board by the middle of the Michaelmas term. The deadline is Sunday 9 November 2014 and must be strictly observed.

For more information you may wish to attend the talk Exams and Lectures on Wednesday 22 October 2014, MR2 CMS (see Appendix II).
Towards the end of the course your lecturers should hand out a questionnaire. Please complete it even if you feel that you have little to say, the fact that you have little to say is important in itself. The completed questionnaires are read by the lecturer and are considered by the Part III Committee.

Examples Classes
For most courses, example sheets are distributed by the lecturer and there are examples classes to help you understand the material. Attending these examples classes is an important part of studying the course and valuable preparation for the examinations. You will gain much more from a class if you (a) prepare work in advance, (b) think about the course in general before the class and (c) take an active part in the class. The arrangements for examples classes are made by the lecturers and not by the Colleges. Examples classes are either given by the lecturer or by a PhD student or a post-doctoral researcher. In this handbook, the word “instructor” refers to whoever is giving the class.

Most Part III courses are challenging, so instructors may not be able to answer all your questions on the spot. They will probably appreciate an e-mail about any questions you may have in advance of the class. You are encouraged to discuss the lectures with other members of the class both on a formal and informal basis (see Section 10 – Support, Talks and Advice for information about study groups).

The instructor may ask you to hand in a completed self-assessment form before the examples class. A form can be downloaded from www.maths.cam.ac.uk/postgrad/mathiii/SA.pdf. This is invaluable in letting the instructor know which questions have proved difficult and need more explanation during the class.

For many courses, the instructor writes a short report about each member of the class when he or she claims payment from the relevant Colleges. In this case, the instructor has to keep an attendance record for each class. At the beginning of each such class you should give your name, College and CRSId (i.e. the first part of your Cambridge email address) for the instructor to record. You should do this even if the instructor omits to ask. For such classes if you wish to drop-out of the course or cannot attend a particular examples class for some reason, you must notify the instructor at least 48 hours in advance of the relevant examples class. If the examples class is to be held at the beginning of the following term, notification must be at least 48 hours before the end of the full term. The instructor may use the information in your self-assessment form to help him or her write the short report on each student’s progress. The purpose of such reports is to help Colleges identify potential difficulties so that appropriate support and help can be put in place.

Please note that, although examples sheets and examples classes are very useful in helping you to learn the material in the course, they do not contribute to your formal assessment or to your final classification in Part III. Their sole purpose is to help you learn, so it is a good strategy to make the most of them.

6. Managing your workload
In order to balance your workload throughout the year, you are recommended to prepare approximately nine units of lectures for examination in each of the Michaelmas and Lent terms. Of course you are welcome to attend more than this number of lectures, and at the beginning of term you are certainly recommended to start more than nine units of lectures before deciding which courses to concentrate on after two weeks or so. If you intend to write an essay you should be aware that it is very tempting to spend more time on this than an equivalent three unit lecture course. For this reason there may be some advantage in taking slightly more units in Michaelmas term. Most students spend the Easter term preparing for the examination, though there are a limited number of examinable Part III courses given during this term.
7. Examinations and Assessment

The following guidelines have been drawn up by Chair of the Part III Committee in consultation with the Chair of Examiners. If you need clarification or have questions you are strongly recommended to consult your College Director of Studies or your Departmental contact.

The examinations are held at CMS over a two-week period in the Easter term. There is no continuous assessment. Each lecture course has its own examination paper, normally set and marked by the lecturer. However the examinations are overseen by a group of Examiners who are formally independent from those giving the lecture courses.

Candidates are allowed to offer up to 19 units of credit for the examination. 16-lecture courses have a 2-hour paper, counting as 2 units; 24-lecture courses have a 3-hour paper, counting as 3 units. An examination may be of ‘open book’ type (meaning that approved lecture notes or similar material may be brought into the examination), in which case the lecturer will announce this before the end of the lecture course. The lecturers may give information on the form of the examination to their lecture class as a whole but, of course, cannot give such information on an individual basis. The rubrics for the examinations are normally available on the web in advance. An essay, written during the year, may be submitted and counts as 3 units. Each candidate may submit at most one essay. See Section 8 - Essays for further information.

The examination timetable will be organised according to the lecture timetable, i.e. courses for which lectures are given in the same time slots will also have their examination papers in the same time slot. **It is therefore not possible for a candidate to take two such courses for examination.** At the beginning of Easter term you will receive a letter from the Chairman of Examiners including a form on which to indicate your choice of examination papers and essay (if appropriate) and information on how examinations are organised.

The final deadline for choice of examination papers and choice of essays is the second Friday of Easter Full term: this year **Friday 1 May 2015**. The deadline for submitting essays is the same day, i.e. Friday 1 May 2015, the second Friday of Easter Full term. The examinations will take place during the period **28 May 2015 to 9 June 2015** (inclusive) although this period is subject to minor change. Results will be announced on **Thursday 18 June 2015**. Soon after that details of your marks will be available through your College. You will later receive a certificate and transcript, again through your College. Please contact undergrad-office@maths.cam.ac.uk for all Part III examination and essay queries.

The Faculty of Mathematics has approved a document outlining the aims and objectives of Part III, and advising the Examiners on the examinations and the classification of results. This is the Faculty Board Advice to Examiners and is reproduced in Appendix III. As outlined there, when examination papers are marked each candidate is given a numerical mark and a quality mark on each paper. On each paper the numerical mark is a percentage, while quality marks are alpha (highest), beta or gamma (lowest), moderated by plus or minus. An alpha quality mark signifies a performance of Distinction standard, while a beta quality mark signifies a performance of at least Honours standard. (Note that, unlike in Parts IA, IB and II of the Mathematical Tripos, the quality mark is given for the paper, not for individual questions.) Marks may be moderated by the Examiners to take into account the difficulty of the examination paper. Essays are marked similarly.

The Examiners consider the performance of each candidate and classify candidates into groups. These are ‘Distinction’, ‘Merit’, ‘Pass’ and ‘Fail’ (for candidates who have taken Part II, a ‘Pass’ is called ‘Honours’). The Faculty Board has recommended that the primary classification criterion is the Optimum Mark (the formula for the Optimum Mark is given in the Faculty Board Advice to Examiners). **However candidates at borderlines between the groups are considered individually and very carefully; decisions are not made by applying a simple formula.**
As a rough guideline, in 2014 Distinctions were awarded to candidates with an Optimum Mark of at least 75%, and Merits were awarded to candidates with an Optimum Mark of at least 65%. The approximate minimum performance to achieve Honours was an Optimum Mark of at least 34%.

While the criteria in 2015 are expected to be similar to those above, it is emphasised that exact criteria for classification vary from year to year and are at the discretion of the Examiners.

In the past almost all candidates who obtained Distinctions or Merits submitted 17-19 units for examination, while candidates who obtained Passes have usually submitted 12-19 units. The Examiners recommend submitting a minimum of 12 units to obtain a Pass.

**Examination preparation**

A talk on Revision Strategies will be held in Lent term (see Appendix II). Copies of past Part III examination papers are available from www.maths.cam.ac.uk/postgrad/mathiii/pastpapers/ and bound copies which are provided in the Part III room. These should not be removed.

**8. Essays**

In place of a 3 hour examination paper you may submit an essay written during the year. A list of approved essay titles is announced towards the end of the Michaelmas term. Some titles are clearly associated with Part III lecture courses, some are not. You are allowed both to take a lecture course for examination and to write an essay that is associated with that course. An essay associated with a lecture course is expected to go beyond the material presented in the lectures. A student may request that an additional essay title is set. (Such a request is usually made in co-operation with a suitable member of the academic staff who will act as an assessor.) The deadline for this is **Sunday 1 February 2015** and must be strictly observed.

Details of essay titles will be made available in an essay booklet that will be available on the Part III webpages towards the end of the Michaelmas term. The booklet will include general guidelines and instructions about writing the essay, including advice concerning plagiarism¹ and the declaration of any relevant work that you have undertaken before the start of Part III. There is no prescribed length for the essay in the University Ordinances, but the Faculty Board Advice to Examiners (see Appendix III) suggests that 5,000-8,000 words is a normal length.

Many students write their essay during the Easter vacation, though there is no reason why essay writing should not start in the Christmas Vacation or in the Lent term (although be careful not to spend disproportionately too much time on the essay). Most Colleges will look sympathetically on requests to stay in College accommodation for part of the vacation to work on the essay (since library and computer access will often be easier in Cambridge than at home), though applications to do this should be made well in advance and in many Colleges extra rent will be payable. Please remember that essay assessors are not necessarily in Cambridge during vacations.

In the past the great majority of Part III students have chosen to write an essay: the work is an enjoyable change and is valuable training for research.

Two talks will be held specifically for students intending to submit an essay (see Appendix II):

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¹ See also the University’s statement on plagiarism at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism/students/ and the Faculty Guidelines on plagiarism at www.maths.cam.ac.uk/facultyboard/plagiarism/. For the University’s statement on proofreading see www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism/proofreading.pdf.
How to write a Part III essay, (1) How to read a paper and How to write a Part III essay, (2) From outline to essay. In addition, material can be at www.dpmms.cam.ac.uk/~twk/Essay.pdf and www.atm.damtp.cam.ac.uk/people/mem/lucidity-in-brief.

9. Progress Interviews

Each Part III student has a Departmental Contact who is a member of academic staff in the Faculty. The Faculty requires that each Part III student has two interviews during the academic year with their Departmental Contact, once in each of the Michaelmas and Lent terms. The two interviews are mandatory. In preparation for these interviews, the student is asked by email to complete an interview form which asks about the courses they are taking, whether or not they plan to write an essay, their future plans, and any feedback on Part III. The completed form and any other questions about Part III are discussed during the interview. The Departmental Contact completes their section of the interview form by writing comments about the interview itself. The completed forms are considered by the Course Directors and then a copy sent to the Director of Studies in College. A copy of the completed form is kept by the Faculty.

As well as providing an opportunity for individual discussion of progress in Part III, the interview process and forms are helpful in allowing the Faculty and College to identify problems so that any necessary help and support can be put in place. If a student does not attend an interview, then a reminder email is sent. If the student does not attend after this, then the College and Course Director are notified of their failure to attend, with the recommendation that the College should follow this up as a matter of urgency.

The procedure and timing of the progress interviews are the same for both DAMTP and DPMMS, although the method of allocation of Departmental Contacts differs between the two departments. The dates and deadlines for interviews are in the Part III Calendar (Appendix II). Students are sent an email by the Graduate Office to let them know when to complete the interview forms (blank forms will be available on the web) and when to arrange the interview with their Departmental Contact.

Students may also consult their Departmental Contacts for advice at other times outside the two interviews. Students may ask their Departmental Contact to write a reference for them.

Allocation of your Departmental Contact

Students registered with DAMTP are assigned a Departmental Contact by the Course Director using the subject interests identified by the students during the registration process. Every attempt is made to assign a Departmental Contact whose scientific interests match those of the student. Students are notified of their Departmental Contacts by email during the first half of the Michaelmas term. Students registered in DAMTP should contact the Course Director for queries about their Departmental Contacts.

In DPMMS the appointed Subject Advisers act as Departmental Contacts. Every student registered with DPMMS must register with a Departmental Contact, usually by signing the list on the door of his or her room in CMS. In DPMMS, a student may change their Departmental Contact at any time provided that the student informs both the old contact and the new one, and that the student lets the Part III secretary know by email. In DPMMS, any Subject Adviser may be consulted for technical help or advice about courses or about future plans.
10. Support, Talks and Advice

Help is available. A variety of events are run throughout the year with the aim of supporting Part III students, and helping them with the decision of what to do next. This section provides a summary of the main activities. Further information is online at cugms.soc.srcref.net/events/partiii. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

Catch-up Lectures
Catch-up lectures are given at the beginning of Michaelmas term and are mainly aimed at Part III students who have come from outside Cambridge. The lectures aim to deliver some background material and/or the standard Cambridge notation in subjects such as Algebraic Topology, Galois Theory, Commutative Algebra, Probability and Measure, Representation Theory, General Relativity, Quantum Mechanics, to help bring students up-to-speed with the prerequisites for these subjects. These lectures take place in the first week of term and will commence on the first day of lectures.

Part III Cafe
During the first four weeks of Michaelmas term, three afternoons each week, PhD students run the Part III cafe, providing free tea, coffee, biscuits, quick assistance with lectures, and informal advice about the course and life in Cambridge generally. These sessions will commence on Friday 10 October 2014.

Part III Study Groups
Part III students are encouraged to form study groups to review lecture material. These sessions are self-organised by Part III students, and are an opportunity for students to work together and discuss courses. There will be a meeting on Monday 13 October 2014 at 4.15pm, MR5 CMS to explain how study groups work.

Part III Seminar Series
There will also be opportunities for Part III students to give informal seminars to their peers and interested PhD students at the end of Michaelmas and Lent terms. Seminars are organised by subject group and each group will have a PhD student to act as group leader. This will be complemented by a workshop in Michaelmas term on How to prepare a talk.

Wednesday afternoon talks
There are talks most Wednesday afternoons, offering advice on matters including applications for PhD places and writing a Part III essay. For further information see Section 13 - Research and Careers and the Part III Calendar (Appendix II).

11. General Interest Lectures and Seminars

You are welcome at any lecture course or seminar organised by the departments. Indeed you are welcome at most lectures and seminars organised throughout the University. All lectures in the University are listed at timetables.caret.cam.ac.uk. Notices announcing seminars in DAMTP, DPMMS and other select departments will be placed on central noticeboards and information screens at CMS. Students may also wish to consult talks.cam.ac.uk and the Departmental websites.

The Faculty of Mathematics and the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences run together a very good series of general mathematical seminars on Mondays at 1700. Details are published on the Institute’s website (www.newton.ac.uk).
12. Resolving Problems

Part III is a challenging and intensive course. From time to time, Part III students may find that they are having problems or difficulties. This section offers guidance for dealing with various types of difficulty. Your main contacts are your Departmental Contact and the Departmental Course Director in the Faculty, and your Director of Studies in your College. Cambridge terms are short, and it is especially important to act without delay if you find that you are having problems or difficulties of any kind.

Problems with a particular course
If you have a problem with a particular lecture course, the simplest way of dealing with it is to contact the lecturer directly. He or she will be happy to explain difficult points or recommend supplementary reading. If your problem cannot be resolved by contacting the lecturer, then you may wish to consult the relevant Subject Adviser or Part III Course Director, or to email the Faculty Hotline (See Appendix I for contact details).

If you are having problems mastering a course, it is very likely that other students are having similar problems. Students are encouraged to organise self-help groups to discuss the course. Graduate students who did the course in previous years can also be helpful, and the Part III café provides a forum for discussion with graduate students. See Section 10 – Support, Talks and Advice.

Problems with Part III as a whole
Sometimes a student may find that Part III is not the right course for them. If you are worried that this may be the case, you should at once consult both your Departmental Contact or the Departmental Course Director and your College Director of Studies (if he or she is not available go directly to your College Tutor). It is especially important to talk to your College as soon as possible. It may be possible to switch to another course, or it may be possible to find a path through Part III, or, after careful consideration and discussion with your Director of Studies and the Course Director, you may find that the best solution may be for you to leave Part III. Colleges provide help and support in deciding and managing the best way forward.

The role of the Colleges
Students from outside Cambridge tend to underestimate the interest their College takes in them and the help and advice that their College can supply. If you need an advocate with the University or the Faculty, your College will provide one. You should consult your College Tutor or Graduate Tutor for advice. Your College aims to provide you with the best support available. Any decision you make with the help and advice of your College is likely to be better than one you make by yourself. However difficult your situation seems to you, it is very likely that your College has had experience in dealing with similar problems and can offer helpful advice and support. Colleges are used to negotiating with the University bureaucracy and with grant-giving bodies. More on the role of Colleges is published at www.cam.ac.uk/current-students/health-and-welfare/college-tutorial-support.

Pastoral support
Unfortunately students sometimes encounter personal difficulties during Part III that are not to do with the course itself (for example, there may be financial difficulties or family illness). If such problems arise, you are strongly advised to discuss the situation with your College Tutor or Graduate Tutor as soon as possible. Colleges are used to dealing with such problems, and are experienced in offering advice, help and support.

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2 This is important. Some choices which are available in the first two or three weeks may not be possible later. In particular, University rules treat students who have completed the first 21 days of a course very differently from one who has not yet done so, and this may have important financial consequences for the students involved.
Medical problems and disabilities
Students with medical problems or disabilities are strongly advised to discuss such problems with their College, who will offer advice and support for medical problems and disabilities. There is a University Disability Resource Centre (www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/disability/).

Examination results
Examinations are a University matter and covered by strict regulations. Whether you have a complaint or not, you should not, under any circumstances, seek to discuss your examination result with your examiners. The University has a standard procedure for dealing with complaints about examination results. Any complaints or requests for reconsideration must be made in writing by your College (usually via your Senior Tutor) to the Chairman of the Examiners. You should therefore discuss the matter with your College Tutor who will advise you further. You should note that any investigation by the University will usually confine itself to seeing that the examiners acted correctly (for example that all the marks you received were entered into the mark book) and not try to second guess the examiners by re-marking your papers.

Equality and Diversity
The Mathematics Faculty is committed to creating and maintaining an environment for work, learning and research which is free from discrimination. It is expected that all members of the Mathematics Faculty (staff and students) will treat each other with respect irrespective of, for example, race, disability, religion, gender or sexual orientation. If you have concerns about any such matter, you are encouraged to approach, in confidence:

- either one of the Faculty Equality and Diversity contacts:
  - Orsola Rath-Spivack (room G0.09, email or100@cam.ac.uk);
  - Stephen Eglen (room G0.05, email sje30@cam.ac.uk);
- either one of the Part III Course Directors (email partiii-director@damtp.cam.ac.uk or partiii-director@dpmms.cam.ac.uk);
- your College Tutor or Director of Studies.

13. Research and Careers

Research careers
Many of you will be hoping to pursue a career in mathematical research. Subject advisers and lecturers can advise you on the opportunities for research both within Cambridge, elsewhere in the UK, and abroad. In many cases you need to apply early. Many foreign universities and grant-making bodies have deadlines well before the New Year. Universities in the UK are increasingly making offers early in the Lent term. Of course, Cambridge is anxious to attract the most able students to continue their studies here. You will be asked in the later part of the first term whether you wish to apply for a research position at Cambridge. If you do, you are strongly encouraged to speak to potential supervisors as soon as possible. Your Part III Advisor can also be a useful source of information; ask him or her in your first interview with them. The availability of Research Council grants varies from one subject area to another, so you need to seek individual advice. Many, but not all, awards for research at Cambridge are dependent on your performance in the examination at the end of the year. Both Departments will consider making firm offers in the New Year and DAMTP, in particular, expects to be able to make several such offers. The Graduate Office can provide advice on the formalities of the applications process.

Careers Service
For those who need more general careers advice, the University Careers Service is situated in Stuart House, 6 Mill Lane. The service has extensive information about fields of work, individual employers, and current vacancies. Information about the Careers Service, including an events calendar is available from www.careers.cam.ac.uk. There are also a number of careers advisers available to those who wish to book individual discussions.
**Faculty careers website and mailing lists**
The Faculty operates mailing lists for those wishing to receive information about careers, research positions and other opportunities that are sent to the Faculty for broader circulation and publication. At the start of Part III students are automatically subscribed to:

- phd-opportunities
- job-opportunities
- temporary-job-opportunities.

Further information about these lists, including how to unsubscribe, is available from [www.maths.cam.ac.uk/careers/](http://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/careers/) where you will also find links to other resources.

**Talks and Events**
There will be several talks and workshops run throughout the year. Details of these events can be found in the Part III Calendar (*Appendix II*):

- *Introduction to the Careers Service (including PhD applications to the USA)*
- *Making Effective Applications – CVs and Cover Letters*
- *Preparing to Meet Potential Employers/Supervisors*
- *Applying for PhDs (general and Cambridge specific advice)*
- *Demystifying Selection Interviews*
- *Post-Master’s Placements*

In addition, the *Careers for Mathematicians Event* will be hosted within CMS at the end of October. This job and internship fair is open to all students and postdocs.

CUGMS also coordinates presentations from the different *Research Groups in Cambridge* during Michaelmas term. The different research groups are presented and introduced, either by their senior researchers or by the graduate students (or a mixture). Part III students will have the opportunity to hear examples of what the different groups are working on, and to ask questions about their research group and subject. There will be separate events for each research group, spread out over Michaelmas term. In addition, CUGMS organise a *Graduate Studies Elsewhere* afternoon to provide a similar opportunity for Part III students to meet graduate students from other (mainly UK) universities. Details are available from [cugms.soc.srce.net/events/partiii](http://cugms.soc.srce.net/events/partiii).
14. Safety and Security

The CMS Safety Officer, Mick Young, will give a short safety briefing for students as part of the Introductory Meeting. It is your responsibility to act safely and avoid putting yourself or others at risk. All site occupants should follow safety instructions and inform the Safety Officer of anything causing concern about safety. If you are involved in an accident or observe a dangerous incident or safety risk, either in or outside the buildings or involving equipment, you should summon help. You should also report it, whether or not anyone was injured.

The CMS Site Safety Policy is available from www.cms.cam.ac.uk/safety/safetypolicy/. All students are expected to be familiar with this policy and abide by it.

Accidents, incidents and hazards

All accidents, incidents and hazards must be reported to Reception, and a report form completed. If you need assistance outside normal office hours telephone University Central Security. They can be contacted on 31818 (non-emergency), or 101 (emergency) from any internally networked phone, or 01223 331818 from an outside line. The emergency number for FIRE, POLICE or AMBULANCE is 1999 from any University network telephone.

First Aid

In case of accident or illness, there are several First Aiders based on this site. To summon help from a First Aider telephone Reception on 65000. Contact details and First Aid boxes are also available in Common Rooms. If a First Aider is required outside normal office hours telephone University Central Security (numbers above).

Fire Safety

Familiarise yourself with entrances, emergency exits and fire-alarm assembly points. If the fire alarm sounds, leave the building by the nearest exit at that level if possible, avoiding stairs if you can and never try to use the lifts. Stay outside until the Fire Wardens allow you to re-enter. You may go into other buildings providing they are not also under alarm. Fire alarms are tested each Wednesday morning between 8.30-9.00am. The alarm will sound for only a few seconds and for this brief period can be ignored; if the alarm continues to sound please evacuate the building.

Access to CMS

The main doors into Central Core are normally unlocked on weekdays between 8.20am-5.30pm. On Saturdays when there are lectures the main doors are unlocked from 8.30am-1.00pm. Your University Card is needed for all other entrances, and also for most other internal doors including the Part III Room in the evenings and at weekends. To have your card activated please take it to Reception. If you lose your card please report it to Reception.

Do not admit people without cards to the buildings. Close manual windows and lock manual doors if you are the last to leave. Always lock the doors behind you on your return from the patio area outside the Part III room.

Smoking policy

Smoking is not allowed in any of the CMS buildings and is actively discouraged near entrances or automatic vents and windows. Please do not smoke in the garden area outside the Part III room or near the bridge between Pavilion B and Central Core. Ashtrays are provided beneath the cycle shelters around the perimeter of the site and the circular seating areas outside the main entrance to Central Core.
15. Part III Facilities

Part III Room
The Part III room (sometimes known as the Dirac Graduate Centre) is located on the lower ground level of Pavilion B (BL.16). It can be accessed via Pavilion B, or via the external steps from the walkway which connects Pavilion B to Central Core. Part III students are free to access this room at any time, but please note that card access is required after hours and at weekends (see Section 14 - Safety and Security).

Noticeboards
Within the Part III room there are official noticeboards which contain important and useful information. Please check notice boards regularly.

Part III kitchen and coffee area
A Flavia drinks’ machine, kettle, microwave, two refrigerators and washing up facilities are provided in the kitchen area outside the Part III room. Limited quantities of milk and sugar are provided free of charge. Sachets for Flavia machines are available to purchase from Reception. Please wash and clear away any crockery and cutlery after use. The refrigerators should not be used for long-term storage of food as space is limited. Please use the recycling bins for glass, plastic bottles and aluminium cans.

Lockers
Lockers are located in the coffee area of the Part III room. Locker keys can be obtained from the Graduate Office (C0.15) for a deposit of £10 (cash only). Your deposit will be refunded on return of the key. Lost keys should be reported to the Graduate Office. There will be a charge for replacement keys. Lockers must be emptied by 30 June 2015.

Computing, printing and photocopying facilities
For details of the computing and printing facilities in the Part III room see Section 17 - Email and Computing. There is a photocopier available for your use. Currently there is no charge for copying. Please report any problems with the photocopier to Reception. Spare paper for printers and photocopier is kept alongside the equipment in the Part III room. Call Reception for more paper. When Reception is closed, limited paper supplies may be taken from BL.20 or B0.01. Please use the recycling bins for used printer paper.

Post
Part III student post should be directed to your College address. Ask at Reception for help with outgoing post.

Telephone
Incoming and outgoing calls are restricted to within the University network only. The extension number is 65243. There is a telephone near Reception that is restricted for outgoing calls to within the University network. A payphone is available in the alcove by MR1 opposite Reception. Calls can be made to anywhere except premium rate numbers.

Disabled students
The building was designed for universal access but please contact Mick Young (66915) for advice on your detailed access requirements.
16. Library and Resources

Library
The Betty and Gordon Moore Library, located on the CMS site, is the main mathematical and physical sciences library of the University. Detailed information is available from www.lib.cam.ac.uk/BGML/. Especially relevant is the maths information resource guide at www.lib.cam.ac.uk/BGML/mooremathsguide.html. Please note that you must register when you first use the Moore. Having done so, Part III students are entitled to full borrowing rights and 24-hour reference access.

The Moore aims to hold at least one copy of every Part III recommended text, while most college libraries will also have a selection of the most commonly-used ones. Your college library may agree to purchase Part III texts that it does not already hold, but you will need to make a case to your college Director of Studies.

Other libraries in Cambridge may be relevant to Part III students, particularly when preparing the Part III essay. For example, the University Library in West Road holds a large collection of older mathematical material, while the Central Science Library in Bene't Street holds biological and geological books and journals. Reference access to the Isaac Newton Institute Library may be granted to non-institute personnel at the discretion of the Institute Librarian. A complete listing of Cambridge libraries may be found on the University Library website at www.lib.cam.ac.uk/libraries_directory/libraries_directory.cgi

The library catalogue Newton (ul-newton.lib.cam.ac.uk/), allows you to search for Moore Library books and journals, or you can search across all Cambridge libraries (plus the DSpace@cambridge repository) using the LibrarySearch service at search.lib.cam.ac.uk/

The photocopier in the Part III Room may be useful for copying books or journals borrowed from the Moore (or elsewhere). Note that photocopying regulations allow the photocopying of one chapter or 5% of a book (whichever is the larger) or, for journals, one article from each issue (not volume) of the journal.

DAMTP course books
A collection of some of the most important books for the DAMTP Part III courses is available from the Part III room. These books are for the use of all DAMTP Part III students and must not be removed from the Part III room.

DAMTP Information Services
This webpage is accessible from the DAMTP home page under internal information (www.damtp.cam.ac.uk/info-office). From here there are links of interest to DAMTP, as well other sites like online databases, conference information received in the department, research councils and societies etc. The majority of these databases, such as maths publications via MathSciNet and the HEP/GR preprints via the Southampton LANL link, do not require a password. A Raven username and password may be needed to access certain online databases and journals, links to online versions of which may be found via the library website. In addition hard copies of some journals are available from the Betty and Gordon Moore Library or any of the university libraries.
17. Email and Computing

Email and Computing Accounts
Part III students will be issued with a University email account and a Desktop Services computing account by the University Information Services (UIS). Students who are new to Cambridge are able to retrieve passwords for these accounts in advance of arrival in Cambridge as part of the University’s Student Registration process. Students who have already studied at Cambridge should be able to access their previous account. Accounts that have been closed down during the summer vacation by UIS can be re-activated upon request. Further information about accounts is available from www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/accounts.

Email lists
The Faculty operates student email lists for Part III. These lists are used primarily for issuing important information to the entire Part III student body, or specific Part III groups. They are moderated to prevent students receiving unofficial email and/or junk email. Most students will have no need to send email to these lists, and should do so only if information is of genuine academic interest to all students. The Faculty Chair and Course Directors are on the Part III list and they do not like to receive unnecessary email.

Laptops/Wifi Devices
You can connect to the Internet using Wifi in the Central Core and in the Part III room, or you can use a wired connection by plugging into data-ports in the Part III Room which are connected to the CMS laptop network. These are clearly labelled and normally provided with an orange patch cable. Further information is available at www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/wireless.

Windows/Linux PCs available for Part III students at the CMS
PCs connected to the University’s Desktop Services are available for use by Part III students in the Part III room. The computers are all ‘dual-boot’ which means they can be started-up to run either Microsoft Windows or Linux. Many software applications are available on both Linux and Windows computers. You may use whichever operating system you prefer, but students who intend to stay on to do research may wish to learn Linux as most of the computers in DAMTP/DPMMS run Linux. Information on these and other Desktop Services facilities at CMS is available from www.maths.cam.ac.uk/computing/mcs/. Information on Desktop Services facilities in general, including a list of available software is available from www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/desktop-services/mcs

Printing
Maths Part III students are given some print-credit at the start of each academic year that can only be used to print to the two Desktop Service printers in GL.04 and to the two Desktop Services printers in the Part III room. The amount of print-credit given is generous and should not require topping up during the year. Printing within the credit limit is free. If for any reason you run out of credit you can apply in writing for additional credit. A form and further details is available at www.maths.cam.ac.uk/computing/mcs/MCS-print.html.

Computing Help
Please email requests for computing assistance to: help@maths.cam.ac.uk

Computing Courses
The Computing Service offers a wide range of training courses which are open to members of the University. See the online training timetable and booking facility (training.cam.ac.uk/ucs/) for details.
Computing Rules
Users of the Part III computing facilities are subject to some rules which are published by UCS at www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/policies/. In particular your attention is drawn to the following:

- Desktop Services accounts are issued for use by a single individual. You must not log in using another person's login name, or allow any other person to access facilities using your login name.

- Computer hardware should be used carefully and left in a condition fit for others to use.

- Information belonging to other users is confidential. You must not read, access, or modify any file not owned by you without the explicit permission of the owner. When a file is not protected (i.e. read or write access by others is allowed), it should not be assumed that permission to copy or modify the file is granted.

- Proprietary software must be used correctly in accordance with licensing conditions and must not be copied or modified. If you install any proprietary software, including shareware, on Part III computers, you must hold a valid licence.

- Users must not access any material on the Internet or other facility which:
  (a) is libellous, racist, obscene or indecent;
  (b) is likely or designed to cause offence, inconvenience or anxiety to others;
  (c) infringes copyright law or any other law (images and sound particularly);
  (d) is of a character likely to bring the University or Faculty of Mathematics into disrepute.

If you encounter such material by accident you are advised to stop viewing immediately and avoid accessing it again.
### Appendix I: Key Contacts 2014-2015

#### Course Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAMTP</td>
<td>Dr D. Stuart</td>
<td><a href="mailto:partiii-director@damtp.cam.ac.uk">partiii-director@damtp.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>B2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPMMS</td>
<td>Dr S. Pitts (Michaelmas) Prof. I. Leader (Lent &amp; Easter)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:partiii-chair@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">partiii-chair@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:partiii-director@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">partiii-director@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>D1.10 C2.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### DAMTP Subject Advisers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Adviser</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astrophysics</td>
<td>Prof. G.I. Ogilvie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:G.I.Ogilvie@damtp.cam.ac.uk">G.I.Ogilvie@damtp.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>F1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied and Computational Analysis</td>
<td>Prof. A. Shadrin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:A.Shadrin@damtp.cam.ac.uk">A.Shadrin@damtp.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>F2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Particle Physics, Quantum Fields and Strings</td>
<td>Prof. D. Tong</td>
<td><a href="mailto:D.Tong@damtp.cam.ac.uk">D.Tong@damtp.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>B2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantum Computation and Information and Foundations</td>
<td>Prof. A.P.A. Kent</td>
<td><a href="mailto:A.P.A.Kent@damtp.cam.ac.uk">A.P.A.Kent@damtp.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>F0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuum Mechanics</td>
<td>Prof. J.R.Lister</td>
<td><a href="mailto:J.Lister@damtp.cam.ac.uk">J.Lister@damtp.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>H1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relativity and Gravitation</td>
<td>Prof. H.S. Reall</td>
<td><a href="mailto:H.S.Reall@damtp.cam.ac.uk">H.S.Reall@damtp.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>B2.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### DPMMS Subject Advisers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Adviser</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>Dr C.J.B. Brookes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:C.J.B.Brookes@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">C.J.B.Brookes@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>C1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis and PDEs</td>
<td>Prof N. Wickramasekera Dr C. Mouhot</td>
<td><a href="mailto:N.Wickramasekera@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">N.Wickramasekera@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:C.Mouhot@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">C.Mouhot@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>E1.11 F1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combinatorics</td>
<td>Prof. A.G. Thomason</td>
<td><a href="mailto:A.G.Thomason@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">A.G.Thomason@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>C2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logic and Foundations</td>
<td>Dr T.E. Forster</td>
<td><a href="mailto:T.Forster@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">T.Forster@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>C0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Differential Geometry and Topology</td>
<td>Prof. I. Smith</td>
<td><a href="mailto:I.Smith@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">I.Smith@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>E2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number Theory</td>
<td>Dr T.A. Fisher (Michaelmas) Prof. A.J. Scholl (Lent and Easter)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:T.A.Fischer@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">T.A.Fischer@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:A.J.Scholl@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">A.J.Scholl@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>E1.09 E1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebraic Geometry</td>
<td>Dr M. Gross</td>
<td><a href="mailto:M.Gross@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">M.Gross@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>E1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Prof. R.J. Samworth</td>
<td><a href="mailto:R.J.Samworth@statslab.cam.ac.uk">R.J.Samworth@statslab.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>D2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Dr N. Berestycki</td>
<td><a href="mailto:N.Berestycki@statslab.cam.ac.uk">N.Berestycki@statslab.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>D2.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Administrative Contacts
If you are uncertain which office to contact, please contact the Graduate Office in the first instance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Office</td>
<td>Lecture timetable Examinations Part III Essays Results</td>
<td><a href="mailto:undergrad-office@maths.cam.ac.uk">undergrad-office@maths.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>B1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Office</td>
<td>Registration Guide to Courses Progress Interviews</td>
<td><a href="mailto:partiii-secretary@maths.cam.ac.uk">partiii-secretary@maths.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>C0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>End-of-Year Questionnaire</td>
<td><a href="mailto:partiii-survey@maths.cam.ac.uk">partiii-survey@maths.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applications for continuation to PhD</td>
<td>DAMTP: <a href="mailto:research@damtp.cam.ac.uk">research@damtp.cam.ac.uk</a> DPMMS: <a href="mailto:research@dpmms.cam.ac.uk">research@dpmms.cam.ac.uk</a> CCA: <a href="mailto:cca@maths.cam.ac.uk">cca@maths.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other useful Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computing Help</td>
<td><a href="mailto:help@maths.cam.ac.uk">help@maths.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td><a href="mailto:facilities@maths.cam.ac.uk">facilities@maths.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
<td><a href="mailto:reception@maths.cam.ac.uk">reception@maths.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Hotline</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hotline@maths.cam.ac.uk">hotline@maths.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Appendix II: Part III Calendar 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 07</td>
<td>Michaelmas Full term begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 08</td>
<td>Introductory meeting, 0930, CMS MR2 &amp; MR3&lt;br&gt;Group photograph and welcome drinks party, 1630, CMS Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 09</td>
<td>Michaelmas term lectures begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 13</td>
<td>Study group meeting, 1615, CMS MR5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15</td>
<td>Careers Talk 1: <em>Introduction to Careers Service</em> (incl. PhD applications to USA)&lt;br&gt;1615, CMS MR2&lt;br&gt;Careers Workshop 1: <em>Making Effective Applications – CVs and covering letters</em>&lt;br&gt;1730, CMS MR5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 22</td>
<td>Talk: <em>Exams and lectures</em>, 1615, CMS MR2&lt;br&gt;Careers Workshop 2: <em>Preparing to meet potential employers/supervisors</em>, 1730, CMS MR5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 29</td>
<td><em>Careers for Mathematicians Event</em>, 1630, CMS Core&lt;br&gt;Talk: <em>Applying for PhDs (general and Cambridge specific advice)</em>&lt;br&gt;1615, CMS MR2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 01</td>
<td>List of examination courses announced in Reporter by this date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 05</td>
<td>Talk: <em>How to Prepare a Talk</em>, 1615, CMS MR2&lt;br&gt;Careers Workshop 3: <em>Demystifying Selection interviews</em>, 1730, CMS MR5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 09</td>
<td>Deadline for Faculty members to request additional examination papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12</td>
<td>Talk: <em>Post-Master's Placements</em>, 1615, CMS MR2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 13</td>
<td>Michaelmas Term Progress Interviews take place this week (week 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 19</td>
<td>Talk: <em>How to write a Part III essay, (1) How to read a paper</em>, 1615, CMS MR2&lt;br&gt;Deadline for return of completed Michaelmas term Progress Interview forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 20</td>
<td>Graduate Studies Elsewhere Open Afternoon (details TBC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 24</td>
<td>Essay descriptions available to candidates via the web pages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 03</td>
<td>Last day of Michaelmas term lectures&lt;br&gt;Part III seminars, afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 04</td>
<td>Part III seminars, all day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 05</td>
<td>Part III seminars, all day. End of Seminar Series Party&lt;br&gt;Michaelmas Full term ends.&lt;br&gt;List of essay titles and additional examination papers announced in <em>Reporter</em> by this date.&lt;br&gt;Some Examples Classes and Supervisions run into the following week.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 13</td>
<td>Lent Full term begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 15</td>
<td>Lent term lectures begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 01</td>
<td>Deadline for candidates to request additional essay titles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deadline for candidates to raise concerns about the examination timetable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 04</td>
<td>Talk: <em>How to write a Part III essay, (2) From outline to essay</em>, 1615, CMS MR2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 18</td>
<td>Lent Term Progress Interviews take place this week (week 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 19</td>
<td>List of additional essay titles available to candidates via the web pages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 25</td>
<td>Deadline for return of completed Lent term Progress Interview forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 01</td>
<td>List of additional essay titles announced in the <em>Reporter</em> by this date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 04</td>
<td>Talk: <em>Revision Strategies</em>, 1615, CMS MR2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11</td>
<td>Last day of Lent term lectures. Part III seminars, afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 12</td>
<td>Part III seminars, all day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13</td>
<td>Part III seminars, all day. End of Seminar Series Party.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lent Full term ends</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Some Examples Classes and Supervisions run into the following week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Many students complete their essays during the Easter vacation. Taking time to review Lent term courses and begin examination preparation is also advisable.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 21</td>
<td>Easter Full term begins. Candidates receive examination entry forms to indicate choice of examination papers and essay.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 23</td>
<td>Easter term lectures begin.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 01</td>
<td>Deadline for return of forms giving choice of examination papers and essay. Deadline for submission of essays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 20</td>
<td>Easter term lectures end.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 28</td>
<td>Part III examinations begin.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 09</td>
<td>Part III examinations end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12</td>
<td>Full term ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17</td>
<td>It is expected that your exam results will be available to you (and no one else) via CamSIS at 1630.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 18</td>
<td>Examination results announced at Senate House, 0900.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 19</td>
<td>Part III end-of-year party</td>
</tr>
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</table>

A google calendar of all Part III deadlines, events and activities can be accessed at [www.maths.cam.ac.uk/facultyboard/calendars/](http://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/facultyboard/calendars/). It is possible to subscribe to this calendar. Details are available from the website.
Appendix III: Faculty Board Advice to Examiners

Aims and Objectives of Part III of the Mathematical Tripos

The aims of the Faculty for Part III of the Mathematical Tripos are:

- to provide a challenging and interesting course in mathematics and its applications for a range of students that include some of the best both in this country and the world;
- to provide a course which whilst mainly aimed at students preparing to do research can be useful to appropriate students going into other careers;
- to give students a background which will enable them to make an appropriate choice of research subject and to prepare them for research in that subject;
- to provide an integrated system of teaching which can be tailored to the needs of individual students;
- to develop in students the capacity to follow and to expound long and complex mathematical arguments;
- to continue to attract outstanding students from all over the world;
- to produce high calibre students with skills sought after by leading graduate schools and businesses throughout the world;
- to provide an intellectually stimulating environment in which future leading mathematicians from many countries can have the opportunity to develop their talents and enthusiasm together to their full potential;
- to maintain and extend the position of Cambridge as a leading international centre for research and teaching in mathematics.

The objectives of Part III of the Mathematical Tripos are such that after completing the course students should:

- have a good background in their chosen field;
- be well on the way to becoming independent learners, expositors and thinkers.

Examinations

Courses of 24 hours duration count as 3 units and are examined by 3 hour papers. Courses of 16 hours duration count as 2 units and are examined by 2 hour papers. Students may write one essay which counts as 3 units. Students may take up to 19 units for examination.

Each paper is set and marked by an assessor. They award marks out of a maximum of 100 and in addition assign a ‘quality mark’. This will usually be a straight reflection of the numerical mark in accordance with the table below:
However, if the assessor feels that the quality of a candidate’s work is not properly represented by the numerical mark, then the quality mark will reflect this. When there is a discrepancy between the numerical and quality mark this must be explained in a note to examiners.

In addition assessors may make comments about the nature of the performance of individual candidates and about the overall difficulty of the paper.

The Faculty’s Transcript given to each successful candidate includes the numerical mark and quality mark for each paper.

**Classification**

As a result of the examination, each candidate is placed in one of the following categories: Distinction, Merit, Pass, Fail or ‘Other’. ‘Other’ may include, for example, candidates who were ill for part of the examination.

The Faculty Board has laid down the following criteria for deciding the different classes.

**Distinction.** Candidates will have demonstrated mastery over a considerable range of material. Their performance will have been such as would be expected of someone starting PhD research at a leading mathematics department.

**Merit.** Candidates will have performed at first class level. In the words of the criteria used for a first class in our undergraduate examinations they ‘will have demonstrated a good command and secure understanding of examinable material. They will have presented standard arguments accurately and showed skill in applying their knowledge.’

**Pass.** Candidates will have performed at upper second class level. They will have demonstrated the ability to absorb and understand difficult material but there may remain gaps in their understanding and they may not always be able to apply their knowledge successfully.

The examiners are responsible for assigning a class to the candidates but are not expected to rank candidates within classes. The chairman of examiners should discuss with the external examiners which candidates are likely to lie on borderlines so that the external examiners may pay particular attention to the scripts of those candidates.

The examiners are asked to classify students according to the descriptions above taking account of the following guidance issued by the Faculty Board. If the examiners have difficulty in applying any of the Faculty Board recommendations, then they are asked to draw attention to the specific problem in the examination report.

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<tr>
<td>81-91</td>
<td>α</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-80</td>
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<td>15-25</td>
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<td>1-14</td>
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</table>
The Faculty Board expects that the examiners will award about 30%-35% Distinctions and about 60% (±2.5%) Distinctions and Merits. Based on past experience the Faculty Board expects the number of Fails to be small but to fluctuate substantially from year to year.

In addition the Faculty Board has issued the following advice to examiners.

- In classing students the examiners will not consider whether they have chosen to be examined on 17, 18 or 19 units. Since judgements are made on the best papers the choice of 17, 18 or 19 units will not affect their chances of obtaining a distinction or a merit. Although it is possible to get a distinction or a merit with fewer units, the examiners may take into account the fact that students taking fewer than 17 units have covered a smaller range of courses.

- In deciding whether to pass students the examiners will not consider the number of units the students have chosen to be examined on provided the number is greater than or equal to 12. Although it is possible to pass with fewer units, the examiners may take into account the fact that students taking fewer than 12 units have covered a smaller range of courses.

- Students should not be penalised for the act of sitting a paper.

- The Faculty Board does not necessarily expect the mark distribution for essays to be the same as that for written examinations. Many students produce excellent essays and the Faculty Board wishes that hard work and talent thus exhibited should be properly rewarded.

- The Faculty Board recognises that the length of an essay is only a weak reflection of the quantity of work involved and bears no relation to the quality of the work done. However, it is anxious to prevent the essay absorbing too much of the candidate’s time. It is therefore perfectly content if a topic is set for which an excellent essay requires about 5000 words and would be unhappy if a topic were set for which an excellent essay required more than 8000 words. The Faculty Board does not wish candidates to worry about word count but would like essay setters who discover that their essays regularly elicit more than 8000 words to consider whether their topics are too demanding.

In the light of the above advice, the Faculty Board has recommended that the primary classification criterion should be the Optimum Mark, which is defined below. However, the treatment of candidates near borderlines may include other considerations, for example quality marks. The treatment of candidates on the pass/fail border line depends on individual considerations.

**The Optimum Mark**

The Optimum Mark is calculated as follows. Suppose a student takes $n$ papers and that $x_i$ is the mark achieved on paper $i$, $i = 1, ..., n$. Suppose that paper $i$ is an $n_i$-unit paper (so that $n_i$ is either 2 or 3 as appropriate and $\sum_{i=1}^{n} n_i \leq 19$).

First find the Mean Mark $M_{\text{all}}$, given by

\[ M_{\text{all}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} n_i x_i}{\max\{\sum_{i=1}^{n} n_i, 17\}}. \]

Then, for $k = 1, ..., n$, find the Mean Mark $M_{-k}$ that results from dropping paper $k$:

\[ M_{-k} = \frac{\sum_{i \neq k} n_i x_i}{\max\{\sum_{i \neq k} n_i, 17\}}. \]

The Optimum Mark is $\max\{M_{\text{all}}, M_{-1}, ..., M_{-n}\}$.