

STUDY SKILLS

Developing Maths Support at Thornton Science Park

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Supporting your learning development

Learning and
Teaching Institute



University of
Chester

Thornton Science Park

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- Former Shell Research Ltd site approx. 9 miles from the main campus
- Home of the Faculty of Science & Engineering, which includes Computer Science and Mathematics
- First Engineering students graduated in 2017
- Commercial tenants on site too
- Students use buses from main campus or commute

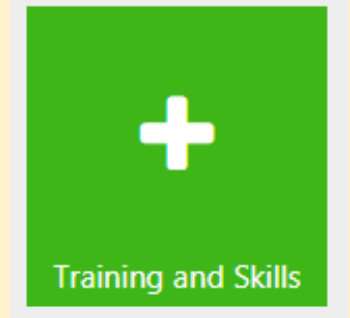
Chester's Study Skills provision

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Maths Skills:

- Algebra
- Building confidence in maths
- Calculus
- Fractions, decimal & percentages
- Mechanics
- Summary statistics
- Tables & graphs
- T-tests and ANOVA
- Using SPSS for data analysis
- Vectors & matrices
- What to do if you get stuck!

- [Moodle Pages](#) & Resources.
- Attend a [Study Skills seminar](#)
- **Request a bespoke seminar** (five or more students).
Email LTIskills@chester.ac.uk
- **Feed Forward** Ask any questions & send drafts of your work to get advice and feedback.
Email LTIskills@chester.ac.uk
- **One-to-one appointments** (up to five sessions literacy and five sessions mathematics per academic year).
Email LTIskills@chester.ac.uk



Maths Support at Thornton

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- First maths skills adviser recruited May 2017, regular presence at Thornton since Jan 2018, maths skills adviser based at Thornton from July 2018
- Programme of seminars aimed at level 4 Science & Engineering students
- One-to one appointments offered at Thornton
- Maths Hour on main campus (Wednesdays)
- Some embedded teaching, particularly induction sessions for levels 4 / 7 and workshops for Computer Science

What are the challenges?

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- Poor to non-existent attendance at our own seminars
- Packed timetables make it difficult to identify slots for offering support sessions
- Students only on site when they need to be
- Reluctance of academics to lose module time for additional maths support (even when they recognise their students need it)
- Uncertain future for the faculty

What works well?

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- Joint approach study skills adviser/ maths skills adviser
- Academics (mostly!) welcome our presence and encourage students to access our support
- Being part of the faculty induction days and open days
- Introductory sessions and other teaching embedded into modules helps students know who we are
- Encouraging students to drop by our office between lectures
- Presence at staff/student liaison meetings

Plans for the future

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- Maths skills made explicit as part of the process of embedding academic skills into modules and will be part of developing work on an academic skills pathway
- Further development of the successful pre-induction pilot
- More flexible approach to co-teaching, such as co-planned workshops delivered by the maths skills advisers
- Potential involvement in a new approach for level 4 Chemistry students (who do not require A level Maths)
- Working with the maths department to enhance the statistical skills of graduates

Any Questions?