Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Mathematics, Statistics & Operational Research (MSOR)
Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA)
London Mathematical Society (LMS)
Royal Statistical Society (RSS)
Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences (HoDoMS)

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Yes, but what would I do with a maths degree?

Studying mathematics can lead to a wider range of careers than most people think, according to the leaders of a new project aiming to get more students to take a degree in mathematics.

Journalism, code-breaking, investing large sums of money or modelling bird flu are just some of the options open to graduates in the mathematical sciences but which may not seem obvious.

One of the key aims of the *Increasing the Supply of Mathematical Sciences Graduates* project is to raise awareness of the career options available to mathematics graduates.

"Too many careers advisers at both school and university level are still only suggesting traditional paths such as accountancy or teaching," said Michael Grove, Network manager of the Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Maths, Stats and OR, who is heading the project. "Although these are important and popular career choices, a degree in mathematics can lead in many more directions."

Another key aim of the project is to ensure that teachers receive the development they need to be able to advise students as to where further study of mathematics could lead.

"It's not just about the doors that open to graduates with a mathematical science degree," said Professor Duncan Lawson, Chair of the Steering Group for the Project.

"It's about the doors that close if you don't study mathematics. Teachers need to be aware of why their students should carry on with mathematics post-GCSE to make sure they can help them make the right decisions."

"This is an exciting project, drawing together all branches of the mathematical community," said Peter Cooper, executive secretary of the London Mathematical Society. "Not only is it important that we work together as mathematicians, but also we will be working closely with the chemists, physicists and engineers who all rely heavily on a good supply of mathematically trained minds."

In order to create a comprehensive programme of careers advice, the project will work closely with employers to find out where mathematicians are deployed. The careers website www.mathscareers.org.uk will be further developed and events will be organised locally to increase student careers awareness. Regional meetings with industrial, professional and academic speakers will also help to promote applications of mathematics & careers.

The University of Birmingham will administer the £3.3 million project grant. Over the first three years, pilot projects will be run by the Coventry University, Leeds University (with Sheffield Hallam University) and Queen Mary, University of London. The intention is to establish the project on a sustainable footing to then roll it out to six more areas in England and then further afield.

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Notes for Editors

1. For further information contact Caroline Davis (Mathematics Policy and Promotion Officer, LMS) – De Morgan House, 57–58 Russell Square, London, WC1B 4HS. (+44 (0)20 7927 0804; caroline.davis@lms.ac.uk)
2. The bodies involved in the study are: The Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA), The London Mathematical Society (LMS), The Royal Statistical Society (RSS), The Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences (HoDoMS) and the Higher Education Academy – Mathematics, Statistics & Operational Research Network (MSOR). It is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
3. The project website is at www.morematsgrads.org.uk.