



2013

**Hot Topics in Mathematics
Evaluation**

Access & Lifelong Learning
Mature Students' Adviser's Office

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Mature Students' Adviser

2013 Hot Topics in Mathematics Sessions

for Entering Mature Students

Evaluation Results

The Office of Access & Lifelong Learning, Mature Students' Adviser's Office in collaboration with UCD's Mathematics Support Centre invited, as a pre-registration support, 2013's incoming mature students an opportunity to engage with and brush up on their mathematics skills before entering UCD through two 'Hot Topics in Mathematics' workshops.

Thirty seven (37) incoming mature students from 8 Colleges and 12 distinct degree programmes requested to attend.

The two Hot Topic sessions were held in late August and early September before the academic term began. The sessions were broken up into lower and higher maths sessions. Each session ran for 6 hours with 4 hours being held one week and 2 hours the following week. Distinct areas of mathematics were interrogated in each Hot Topics Session and within each Session so for example a participant who was familiar with differentiation could opt to not attend that portion of a Session.

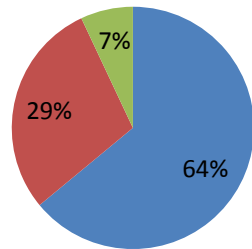
Two tutors were employed for a total of 24 tutor hours.

Participants were asked to evaluate the sessions and 14 evaluations were returned from participants entering the Colleges of Science, Agricultural Food and Veterinary Science, Engineering, Commerce, Computer Science and Arts.

Participants were asked the five (5) questions noted below and had room to add additional comments.

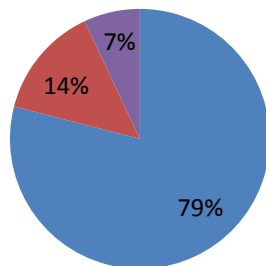
Regarding Participants Re-Engagement With and Confidence With Mathematics Having Participated in the Hot Topic Sessions

I Found My Participation in the Hot Topics Sessions Useful in Re-Engaging with Mathematics



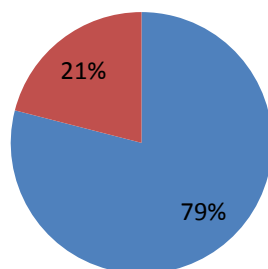
- Very Useful
- Very Useful/More Time
- Neutral
- Not Useful/Not Enough Time
- Not Useful

I Am More Confident in My Mathematics Ability Having Participated in the Hot Topic Sessions



- Very Much So
- About the Same
- Neutral
- Not At All but Session Really Helped
- Not At All

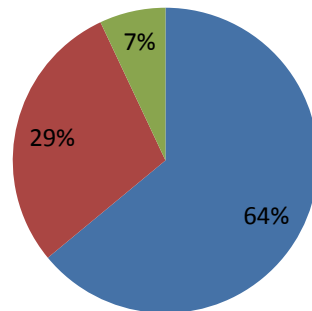
I Feel More At Ease Regarding My Engagement With Mathematics Modules



- Very Much So
- About the Same
- Neutral
- Not At All But Sessions Really Helped
- Not At All

Regarding the Level of Mathematics in the Hot Topic Sessions

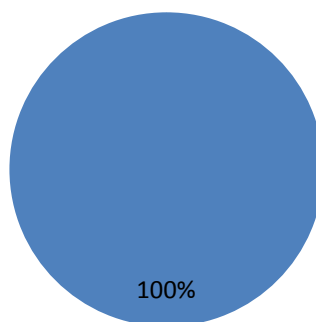
I Was Happy With The Level of the Material Covered



- Yes Just Right
- Yes Would Have Liked More Complexity
- Neutral
- No Level Was Too Advanced
- No Not Advanced Enough

Recommendation for Hot Topic Sessions to Continue as a Pre-Registration Support for Entering Mature Students

I Would Recommend the Hot Topic Sessions for Future Incoming Mature Students



- Very Much So
- No Opinion
- Not At All

Additional Comments

Evaluators were asked to provide any additional commentary they wished. Six (6) additional commentaries were provided and they are reproduced below.

'Thank you this support. Knowing the Maths Support Centre is there is brilliant. The sessions were well run and the tutors fantastic. Thank you!'

'I would have liked more time as while the sessions were good I needed more time.'

'More structure such as an assignment would have been good.'

'Thanks very much'

'Excellent Thank you!'

'Thank you Mature Student Adviser and Maths Centre! That was brilliant'