



2012

Mature Student's Orientation Day

Evaluation

Office of Access & Lifelong Learning
Access Centre
Mature Students' Adviser's Office

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2012 Hot Topics in Mathematics Sessions

for Entering Mature Students

Evaluation Results

The Office of Access & Lifelong Learning, Access Centre, Mature Students' Adviser's Office in collaboration with UCD's Mathematics Support Centre invited, as a pre-registration support, 2012'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.

Fifty six (56) incoming mature students from 6 Colleges and 13 distinct degree programmes requested to attend. After initial consultation with the students attending degrees in the Arts fields the five (5) students in Arts related degree fields decided not to attend the sessions.

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 16 evaluations were returned. This drop off from number participating to number returning evaluation occurred as not all participants from the first week returned for the second 2 hour session the following week, not all in attendance completed the evaluation and some participated in both sessions and only completed one evaluation.

Evaluations were returned from participants entering the Colleges of Science, Agricultural Food and Veterinary Science, Health Sciences, Commerce and Unknown.

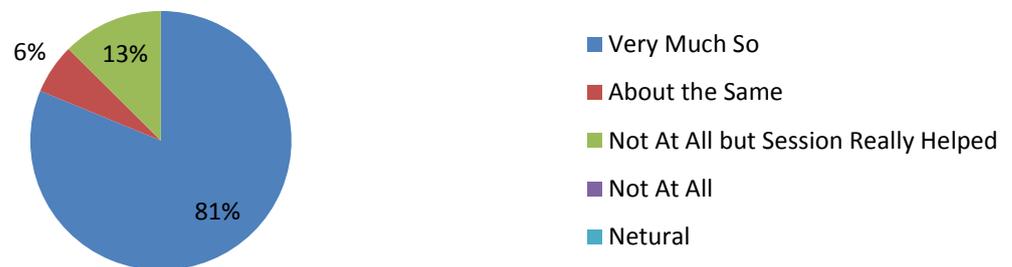
Participants were asked the five (5) questions noted below and had room to add additional comments.

Participants' re-engagement with and confidence with Mathematics having participated in the Hot Topic Sessions

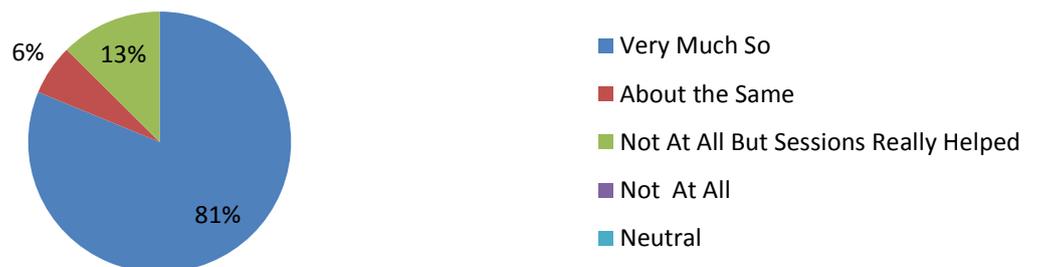
Were the sessions useful in re-engaging with Mathematics?



Are you more confident in your Mathematics ability having participated in the Hot Topic Sessions?

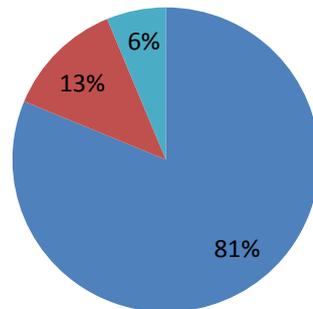


Do you feel more at ease regarding your engagement with Mathematics modules?



The level of Mathematics in the Hot Topic Sessions

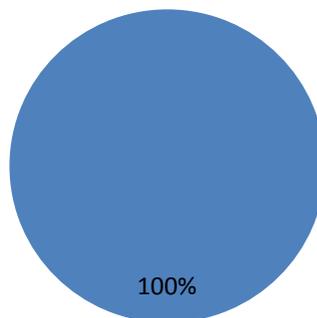
Were you happy with the level of the material covered?



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

Recommendation for Hot Topic Sessions to continue as a pre-registration support for entering Mature Students

Would you recommend the Hot Topic Sessions for future incoming Mature Students?



- Very Much So
- Not At All
- No Opinion

Additional Comments

Evaluators were asked to provide any additional commentary they wished. Seven (7) additional commentaries were provided and they are reproduced below.

'Thank you for offering this support. I didn't realise how much I had forgot and I feel this will be really good for me in being ready for my lectures. And it was really brilliant to meet other girls in my degree'

'Longer Sessions. More Days'

'The Maths Support Centre is a best place for me since I did maths long time ago and attending the Maths Hot Topics Sessions was absolutely fantastic for me since its one to one sessions. I have plenty of time to ask any question where I don't really understand the concept. The tutors are absolutely brilliant for their help.

I am going to give them (Mathematics Support Centre) tough times when I have difficulties in class.' (Intends to use MSC all the time)

'Would have been helpful to go through the sheet examples on board afterward. Less time working out sheet time ourselves. Sometimes there was too long spent where students weren't sure what they were at. Despite having just been shown...All the letters on the board can be confusing so for the first full more complicated example slow way down. As soon as I understood the why element I was generally fine.'

'Thanks very much'

'Excellent service. Thank you.'

'This is such a brilliant support to have coming in as I am a bit rusty on my Maths as I haven't used it in some years. Thank you Ronan and Maths Support Centre'