



First Year in Maths Project

a joint project by the University of Melbourne, University of Adelaide, University of Sydney and Curtin University.

<http://fyimaths.org.au>

Project Members:

Dr Deb King

(Project Leader)

University of Melbourne

Dr Adrian Koerber

University of Adelaide

A/Prof Leon Poladian

University of Sydney

Prof Jo Ward

Curtin University

Joann Cattlin

Project Manager

University of Melbourne

Enquiries: 03-90358694

joann.cattlin@unimelb.edu.au

Interviews

We have almost completed the interview stage of the project. To date we have spoken to 36 academics in 22 universities across the country and NZ, and have compiled rich data on how mathematics is taught and managed in first year, the challenges academics face and the range of measures provided to teach and support students from a range of backgrounds. We have uncovered many interesting and unexpected aspects of the role of first year subject and program coordinators. We hope to complete the interviews in the next few months.

FYiMaths on Twitter

If you use Twitter, you might like to follow us <https://twitter.com/fyimaths>. We will use Twitter to make announcements and retweet information that may be of interest relating to undergraduate mathematics, STEM education and teaching and learning initiatives.

National Forum on Assumed Knowledge in Maths: Its broad impact on tertiary STEM programs, Sydney, 13th and 14th February, 2014

The FYiMaths project and the Institute of Innovation in Science and Mathematics Education (IISME) jointly organised the national forum on **Assumed Knowledge in Maths: Its broad impact on tertiary STEM programs** at the University of Sydney last month. It was attended by 145 academics and education specialists from 27 universities, teachers, policy makers, and featured keynotes by Professor Ian Chubb and Professor Terry Speed (2013 Winner of PMs Prize for Science). The program is available on our [website](#), as well as links to most of the [presentations](#).

The forum was very successful in raising awareness of the complex challenges facing academics in teaching mathematically underprepared students. The forum was attended by representatives of ACARA, 3 state government education authorities, the Catholic Education Office, the current and future presidents of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers. The enthusiastic and active involvement of all participants in the forum presentations, discussion sessions and informal networking created important connections across the sciences and between secondary and tertiary education sectors.

The forum also provided a valuable opportunity for information sharing between academics about the teaching and assessment initiatives at other institutions. The presentations showcased a variety of initiatives from across mathematics, science and engineering disciplines. They demonstrated that universities in every state are tackling students' lack of assumed knowledge in mathematics in different ways, but that there is considerable evidence that these measures cannot fully compensate for a lack of mathematical preparation at school. A full report on the forum will be circulated in the near future.

Special Issue of International Journal of Innovation in Science and Mathematics Education (IJISME) – Call for papers soon

The FYiMaths team will be coordinating a special issue of [IJISME](#). The broad theme of the issue will be the challenges in first year mathematics explored at the national forum and will be published online just before ACSME this year. We will be calling for papers in the near future, so keep your eye out for an email.

Building a Network

One of the aims of this project is the development of a network of academics teaching and coordinating in first year mathematics. To date the network has consisted of an informal group of academics we have contacted through interviews, at conferences or by attending our workshop in June 2013 or the forum in February 2014. Our communication with this group has been via email, our website and this newsletter.

In order to formally establish this network we would like your input on what you consider important about a network. Your answers to the following questions, via email would assist us in building a network that meets your needs.

Please copy and paste these questions and your answers into an email with the subject 'network survey' to: joann.cattlin@unimelb.edu.au

1. Do you consider yourself a member of this network already?
2. Are you a member of any other network?
3. What do you think constitutes a network?
4. What can a network do to assist you in your role?
5. What issues and activities do you think the network should focus on?
6. Can you suggest a name for the network?

Events

In November last year we conducted a brief survey of our network of contacts to find out the most suitable time to hold an annual event. The response indicates a fairly equal spread across ACSME and the end/beginning of the year. We took this into account in organising the forum in February and we are also planning to be part of network meetings at ACSME on 1st October in Sydney. Keep an eye out for information about the ACSME discipline day.

The results are as follows:

	1st pref.	Total
ACSME	15	15
AUSTMS	8	10
Nov/Dec	14	15
February	16	17

Workshop June 2014

Following on from the success of our workshop last June, we are planning to hold another workshop this year. The workshop will be held over 1.5 days in the week commencing 23rd June at the University of Melbourne. It will focus on different modes of teaching mathematics, such as e-learning, online courses, flipped classroom and different tutorial styles on Day 1. Day 2 will be a half-day session focussing on the practical implementation of diagnostic testing. The workshop will be free and will include lunch, morning and afternoon teas.

Funding for the production of this document has been provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching. The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching.

To express interest in attending and to indicate your preferred days of attendance please email joann.cattlin@unimelb.edu.au by Friday 28th March. We will confirm the date and call for registrations after this date.

This workshop is being sponsored by the Australian Mathematical Sciences Learning and Teaching Network (AMSLaTNet) which enables us to provide travel grants to assist participants who do not have access to institutional funding for professional development for this event. We will provide further details on how to apply for this funding once the date of the workshop is confirmed.



The project's formal title is "Building leadership capacity in University first-year learning and teaching in the mathematical sciences".

Support for this publication/activity has been provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching. The views expressed in this publication/activity do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching.

Funding for the production of this document has been provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching. The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching.