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Students' perceptions of A-level further mathematics as preparation for undergraduate mathematics.

Adams, G. (ed.), Proceedings of the British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics (BSRLM). Vol. 35, No. 2. Proceedings of the day conference, Durham University, UK, June 6, 2015. London: British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics (BSRLM). 13-18 (2015).

Summary: As part of a large project involving over 4,000 Science and Social Science undergraduates, 928 undergraduate mathematicians took part in an online questionnaire. Participants were surveyed regarding their experiences of studying Further Mathematics, motivations for doing so, and the extent to which A-level study had prepared them for their undergraduate course. Participants were positive about Further Mathematics, describing it more favourably as preparation for undergraduate study than the single A-level Mathematics. This research suggests that university admissions tutors and schools should consider at least encouraging prospective undergraduate mathematicians to take Further Mathematics – even if it is not a requirement for entry to their chosen universities – in order that they can be better-prepared for future study.

Classification: C24 D34

Keywords: educational research; A-level; further mathematics; transition; undergraduate mathematics; preparation for university; questioning; motivations; experiences; choices; careers; advice
<http://www.bsrlm.org.uk/IPs/ip35-2/BSRLM-IP-35-2-03.pdf>