

Mathematics and Statistics Undergraduate Handbook
Part C Dissertations in Statistics:
Guidance Notes 2011–12
Update of 18-11-2011

The following updates have been made to the Part C Dissertation Guidance Notes.

This update and the full version of the updated guidance notes are available at http://www.stats.ox.ac.uk/current_students/bammath/projects.

1.1 The amount of work involved

The wording of the first paragraph of Section 1.1 has been adjusted to emphasise the fact that a Part C dissertation is one-third of Part C. The new first paragraph of Section 1.1 is:

“A project is of one unit weight and should therefore be equivalent to two 16-lecture courses. Accordingly a student should think of the project as being the equivalent of one-third of a full academic year’s work. The project work is mainly concentrated in Michaelmas Term, the Christmas Vacation, and Hilary Term. We recommend that students do some preparatory reading for their projects over the Summer Vacation.”

3.2 General information on assessment and marking

The descriptions of *Mathematics/Statistics*, *Data analysis/simulation*, and *Content* in Section 3.2 have been expanded to give more information about marking criteria:

Mathematics/Statistics: Proofs and assertions should all be correct, written in your own words, and illustrated using your own worked examples. In applied topics, the derivation of the model should be properly justified.

Data analysis/simulation: The data analysis has to be correctly and suitably done, including the choice of model. Similar comments apply to simulation.

Content: You must do more than rehash text books and lecture notes. You should use multiple original sources, and present the material in your own words with your own critical overview. The Examiners are looking for your thoughts and contributions.”