



DEPARTMENT OF
STATISTICS

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FINAL HONOUR SCHOOLS OF MATHEMATICS, MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS, OXFORD MASTERS IN MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

PART C 2025

Notice to Candidates offering a Mini-Project in Statistics

SC8 Topics in Computational Biology

This course is assessed by mini-project which has a weighting of one unit. USM marks will be assigned to mini-projects with the same meaning as regards class boundaries as in the written papers and with reference to the qualitative descriptors in Appendix F of the Part C Examination Conventions available at https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/273961/modules#module_452943

Mini-project assignments will be made available on the course Canvas site after 12 noon **on Friday week 8 Hilary Term (14 March 2025)**.

An electronic version of your mini project should be submitted via Inspira by the deadline of 12 noon on Tuesday of week 2 of Trinity Term (6 May 2025). Please read the [submission website](#) and [student user guide](#) in advance of attempting to submit your mini project.

Each mini-project is designed to take you about 3 days' work. You may, however, need an extra day for background reading. Your mini-project should not normally exceed 20 pages, and 10 pages would be more typical.

The mini-project assignment will contain an outline of the marks available for each part of the mini-project. Each mini-project will be marked independently by two examiners or assessors. A USM mark in the range 0–100 will be awarded.

If a problem arises, please consult one of your college tutors in the first instance. Tutors will not be able to help you answer the mini-project, but they may be able to help you with your planning. They may consult the examiners on your behalf if they feel that some clarification of the mini-project assignment is necessary, and may inform the examiners (through your college and the Proctors) of any factors (e.g. illness) that may affect you. You should not make direct contact with the course lecturer, the class tutor(s) or the examiners.

Please give the file you are submitting your candidate number as its name and make sure that you do not write your name or college on any part of your work, but you should put your candidate number on every page.

You will be asked to complete the declaration of authorship as part of the electronic submission process. You do not need to upload a separate form. This declaration will be removed by the Chairman of Examiners, and the assessors of your work will not be able to identify you. The examiners intend that the electronic copy of your mini-project will be screened by Turnitin for plagiarism.

Penalties for late or non-submission of coursework

It is important that you submit your coursework on time. You should be aware that the formal consequence of missing the deadline for handing in your coursework is withdrawal from the examination as if you had failed to take a written paper at the appointed time. At the very least, a penalty can be imposed for late submission. See below for fuller details. You are advised to consult the Senior Tutor of your college if for good cause you are unable to meet the stipulated deadline.

Note in particular that the Proctors do not look sympathetically on requests in university examinations for late submission of project reports, theses etc. on the grounds that back-up copies of data were not made or were stolen along with a computer. If you have important data on a personal computer or removable media, then **make back-up copies and keep these safe**.

Late submission of Part C coursework will normally result in the following penalties:
Where permission for late submission has been granted by the Proctors, no penalty will be imposed.

Where permission for late submission has not been granted by the Proctors, the normal penalties based on a submission deadline of Monday at 12 noon are as follows:

Lateness	Cumulative mark penalty
Up to 4 hours	1
4-24 hours	10
24-48 hours	20
48-72 hours	30
72 hours – 14 days	35
More than 14 days late	Fail

The final mark cannot be negative, it is truncated at zero if necessary.

The cumulative penalty above would be deducted from the dissertation mark, when the coursework mark is expressed out of 100. For example, if a student submits a dissertation 20 hours late, and that coursework in itself is worth 65 marks, then the penalty above means that s/he loses 10 marks and so the final mark is 55.

Where permission for late submission has not been granted by the Proctors and the coursework is over 101 hours late, the Examiners would refer the case to the Proctors for guidance as to what penalty to impose.

I would like to remind you of the importance of avoiding plagiarism or any suspicion of plagiarism, as explained in the 'Guidance Notes' on 4th year dissertations, which can be found at https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/system/files/attachments/Mini-project%20guidance%20for%20students_1.pdf.

Professor Geoff Nicholls
Chair of Examiners
February 2025