

---

# The LTSN MathsTEAM Project

LTSN Maths, Stats & OR Network, LTSN Engineering and The UK Centre for Materials Education

---

**Christine Hirst**  
**LTSN Maths, Stats & OR**  
**Network**

c.hirst@bham.ac.uk



*For more info contact:*

Christine Hirst,  
MathsTEAM Co-ordinator,  
LTSN Maths, Stats & OR  
Network  
The University of Birmingham  
Phone: 0121 414 3945  
Email: c.hirst@bham.ac.uk  
[http://ltsn.mathstore.ac.uk/  
mathsteam](http://ltsn.mathstore.ac.uk/mathsteam)

The recent reports *Measuring the Mathematics Problem*, published by the Engineering Council, June 2000 (1), and *Engineering Mathematics Matters* published by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, September 1999 (2) both address the growing deficiency in mathematical skills amongst science and engineering students.

Three of the key recommendations from these reports are:

- Students embarking on mathematics-based courses should on entry have a diagnostic test.
- Prompt and effective support should be available to students whose mathematical background is not up to the standard required.
- In both the IEng and CEng programmes, the mathematics topics should be taught within an engineering context.

### ***The LTSN MathsTEAM Project***

Implementing these recommendations requires knowledge of the methods, which are currently being used in the science and engineering communities. Three LTSN centres have therefore established a team to bring together this knowledge.

The resulting LTSN MathsTEAM project will conduct an in-depth survey of current resources and teaching methods, in order to identify suitable material for inclusion in three information packs. This will include the commissioning of case studies. These packs will help departments to identify current resources and practices and make informed decisions on what could work for their department when implementing the recommendations made by the reports.

The three information packs will be available both in printed form and from the LTSN Centres' websites. The web pages will not only provide access to the information packs but will also present the results of the survey, give relevant generic information and provide annotated references and links to important resources elsewhere.

### ***Get Involved!***

MathsTEAM sees this as an excellent opportunity to develop the appropriate resources to support the transfer of knowledge around the communities of the three subject centres.

MathsTEAM is interested in talking to academics who are involved in diagnostic testing, running teaching programmes based on student support or teaching mathematics within an engineering context. We would very much value your experiences! The sharing of this information is crucial to finding the answers to the current problem.

If you would like to contribute to the project please contact Christine Hirst, who is responsible for gathering and collating the required information, commissioning case studies and producing the information packs.

- (1) <http://www.engc.org.uk/gateway/3/mathsreport.pdf>  
(2) <http://learn.lboro.ac.uk/inmate/inmatepubs/index.html>