



King's College
Saint Michaels

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION COURSE OUTLINE

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Introduction

King's College Saint Michaels is dedicated to helping students achieve the combination of skills and qualifications which will enable them to make a successful next step in their education and to prepare them for adult life beyond school or college.

The University Foundation programme provides the opportunity for students to study a range of academic subjects leading to a well recognised and University endorsed qualification that allows students to apply for Undergraduate study at UK Universities on a course of their choice.

Suitable for students of 17-19 years of age, King's College Saint Michaels' accredited University Foundation Programme (UFP) is a one year course designed to prepare international students with the subject specific knowledge, study skills and IELTS required to confidently access UK undergraduate courses.

Recognised by universities as an alternative to traditional A Levels and offering enrolment options in either September or January, the course is delivered through three modules through either Science or Humanities subject pathways. Compulsory subjects of English, Mathematics, Critical Thinking, and ICT are also included in the learning programme, supporting the development of key study skills essential to many degree courses.

Progress is assessed at the end of each module using a range of assessment methods including formal examinations, project work and extended essays. Assessment grades contribute to the overall grade awarded on completion of the course.

Accredited by The University of Buckingham, students are supported with specialist UCAS application advice and preparation and go on to continue their studies at a wide range of UK universities.

Course Structure

Our University Foundation Programme is offered through two pathways or Humanities. Students study core modules which equip them with the skills they need for Undergraduate study alongside their more specialised modules for either Science or Humanities. In total students study eight modules.

These modules are all assessed at the end of each of the three terms and all these assessments are used to reach the final grade awarded. Assessments are a mix of

traditional examinations, projects, presentations and practical work. This continuous assessment is particularly attractive to students as they can track their own progress and know that they are being assessed over a range of skills and not just one final examination.

Core Modules

MATHEMATICS

The mathematics syllabus builds on number, algebra and geometry work that students will have previously studied. It will enable students to understand and appreciate the mathematical concepts which support the Business and Science modules and includes data handling, graphing, calculus, probability and mathematical modelling. The syllabus includes:

- Data collection, display and analysis
- Algebraic manipulation
- Index notation, sequences and Binomial expansion
- Probability
- Calculus, differentiation and integration
- Correlation and regression

Assessment for this module is from regular end of topic exams, which occur approximately every 4 weeks, and a data handling project.

CRITICAL THINKING

Critical Thinking is a skills-based rather than content-based module. It develops the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments and can support thinking skills in all subject areas, from arts and humanities to sciences. It builds skills vital to study at University in all areas of problem based learning, evaluation and debate. The syllabus includes:

- Introduction to critical thinking
- The language of reasoning
- Credibility
- Analysis and evaluation of arguments
- Developing your own reasoned argument
- Ethical reasoning and decision making
- Dilemmas
- Presentation skills
- Debate and persuasive language techniques

Assessment is from three equally weighted examinations and coursework.

ICT & STUDY SKILLS

This module is excellent preparation for University study and the world of work and will build on the skills the students already have acquired. Students develop their ICT skills using programmes that are commonly used to support study. This will include Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Databases, Desk Top Publishing and Presentation software. Students will also learn how to use ICT for Research and Communication.

Study skills addressed include note taking, report writing, oral presentations, group and individual working, reflection and time management. The syllabus includes:

- Software skills
- Using ICT to improve productivity
- Safe and responsible use of ICT
- Research techniques
- Project Management
- Moral and ethical considerations
- The legal framework
- Emerging technologies
- Study Skills

Assessment for this module is a software artefact and report, examinations and a presentation of a portfolio of research.

ENGLISH & BRITISH LIFE & INSTITUTIONS

The aim of this module is to develop students' English skills in all five skill areas: writing, speaking, listening, reading and pronunciation, including:

Writing:

- Formal and Informal letters
- Reports
- Summaries
- Stories
- Articles
- Academic Style Essays

Speaking:

- Be able to provide information about themselves
- Make and respond to suggestions, discuss alternatives, make recommendations and negotiate agreement

- Describe photographs and other images
- Talk about opinions, likes/dislikes, habits and experiences
- Present chosen information in a seminar setting
- Hold and defend a position during debate

Listening:

- Listen to lectures/texts to find key information
- Listen to find specific information and detailed meaning
- Listen for attitude and opinion

Reading:

- Read notices and other short texts to find specific information
- Skim read texts to gain a general understanding of the content
- Scan read texts to find specific information.
- Complete closed exercise using information derived from a text
- Read text in detail for full understanding of the information present within the text
- Understand vocabulary and grammar present in written text

Pronunciation:

Pronunciation is recognized as an often overlooked but key facet of development in the English language and will be an area of focus throughout the course, with an appropriate amount of time dedicated to it over the course of the academic year.

Students are entered for their IELTS examination if required.

In addition students look at the nature of British institutions, how they work and their effect on the British population. Students also develop an understanding of the historical context of these institutions. The syllabus includes:

- Note taking in a variety of contexts
- Drafting, editing and proof reading
- Reading skills such as skimming and scanning
- Listening skills
- Understanding the British Parliamentary system
- Understanding of Britain's relationship with Europe and the rest of the world, historically and currently.

Assessment is from end of term examinations and an extended essay.

Study Pathways

In addition to the core modules students follow a specialism in Science or Humanities. The Science pathway will prepare students to apply for courses in science related fields such as engineering, environmental sciences, biochemistry, zoology as well as the more traditional subjects chemistry, biology and physics. The humanities pathway is followed by those who wish to follow further study in such areas as Business, Management, Marketing, Communications, accounting and Economics.

SCIENCE PATHWAY

Biology

The three equally weighted modules cover the core aspects of Biology and prepares students for a wide range of Undergraduate courses such as Biology, Zoology and Conservation. The course has been structured to enable students to understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society . The syllabus includes:

- Cells and Transport
 - Cell structure
 - Microscopy skills
 - Transport in Plants
 - Transport in Animals
- Biochemistry
 - Biological Molecules
 - Enzymes
 - Disease and Immunity
- Genetics and Biodiversity
 - Inherited change and evolution
 - DNA and RNA
 - Biodiversity, classification and conservation
 - Genetic Engineering

Assessment is through a combination of practical and experimental work, coursework, presentations and end of term examinations.

Physics

The course is structured to prepare students for any physics or engineering based subject. It has been structured to develop and improve experimental skills and hence to develop interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject

The subject has been separated into three equal modules covering all the core aspect of Physics. The syllabus includes:

- Forces and Motion
 - Kinematics
 - Linear Motion
 - Circular Motion
 - Newton's laws of motion
- Electricity
 - Energy, Power and Resistance
 - Electricity generation
 - Basic electronics
 - Design, construction and checking of circuits
- Modern Physics
 - Stars, galaxies and the universe
 - Sub atomic structure
 - Radioactivity and Nuclear processes

Assessment is through a combination of practical and experimental work, coursework, presentations and end of term examinations.

Chemistry

This subject has been split into three module topics which cover the main aspects of Chemistry; Physical, Inorganic and Organic.

The course has been structured to enable students to develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods as well as developing essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other. The syllabus includes:

- Physical Chemistry
 - Atomic Structure and Bonding and Intermolecular forces
 - Reaction Kinetics
 - Enthalpy Changes
- Inorganic Chemistry
 - Periodicity
 - Groups 1, 2, 17 and Transition metals
 - Inorganic analysis
- Organic Chemistry
 - Aliphatic hydrocarbons
 - Alcohols, Carbonyl compounds, Carboxylic Acids and Esters.
 - Arenes,
 - Organic analysis and Spectroscopy

Assessment is through a combination of practical and experimental work, coursework, presentations and end of term examinations.

HUMANITIES PATHWAY

Business

This module enable students to understand and appreciate the nature and scope of business, and the role it plays in society. The course covers environmental, ethical, governmental, legal, social and encourages a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. The syllabus includes:

- Management
- Nature and classification of Business
- Legal, moral and ethical considerations of Business
- Human resource management
- Leadership

Assessment is a combination of coursework and presentations and end of term examinations.

Economics

Students who study this module have the opportunity to develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life. It provides an excellent grounding for students wishing to study economics or finance related degrees as well as complementing the Business and Commerce modules. The syllabus includes:

- Managing scarce resources
- International trade
- Competitive markets and how they work
- Firms and how they operate
- Economic efficiency within competitive markets
- The impact of Government on market outcomes
- Government macroeconomic objectives

Assessment for this module is from three end of term examinations.

Commerce

The Commerce module allows students to acquire knowledge and develop an understanding of the nature and purpose of commercial activities and to become aware of

the significance of innovation and change within the context of commercial activities. It provides a great bridge between Economics and Business. The syllabus includes:

- Production and commercial activity
- Business units; their organisation, financing and assessment of performance
- Trade
- Aids to Trade
- The individual as a consumer
- Business as the consumer
- An awareness of the functions of - The Office of Fair Trading
- The role of Government in Commerce
- The European Union

Assessment for this module is from termly assignments and end of term exams.

University Application

The University accredited UFP programme allows students access to UK Undergraduate courses. University applications are undertaken in the autumn term. Students have help from their tutor and from our UCAS adviser throughout the application process. Previous UFP students are now studying at a range of UK Universities. Some of the offers students have recently received have included:

University	Course	UFP offer
Cardiff University	Business management	B
Swansea University	Mechanical Engineering	C
Keele University	Business management	B
Oxford Brookes	Marketing and Communications	D
Loughborough	Accounting and Finance	C

Grading

UFP students are awarded a grade for each module and an overall course grade. Universities may ask for minimum grades in particular modules as well as an overall grade or your offer may just refer to an overall grade or percentage. The grades and percentages for your modules and for your overall grade are the same.

Grade	Percentage
A*	90 – 100%
A	80 – 89%
B	70 – 79%
C	60 – 69%
D	50 -59%
E	40 – 49%
U	0 -39%