

Transition to university mathematics

Highlights



Students experience a drop in mathematical confidence during their first semester.



Over half of new students find AI helpful for learning mathematics, compared to 13% of students prior to starting.



Home students have a narrower view of mathematics than international students.



The transition appears to negatively impact female students more than male students.

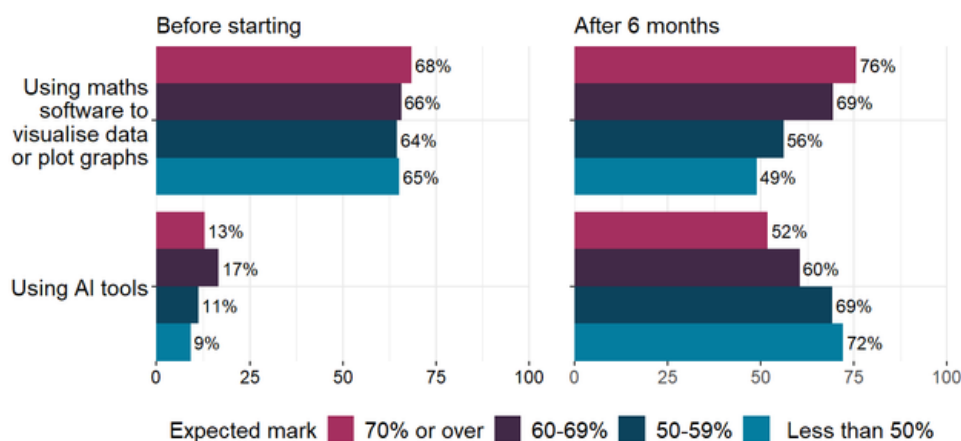


At universities with higher entry requirements, there is a greater 'jump' in curriculum and drop in student confidence than elsewhere.

What we did

Students starting undergraduate maths degrees in 65 UK universities completed surveys before and after their first semester.

This report presents analysis from 723 students on their transition expectations and experiences.



After 6 months of university, student use of computing and AI is correlated with expected first year mark.

Why it matters

The demand for mathematical and data skills is increasing in an age driven by technology and AI, yet the transition from school to university mathematics is difficult for many students. This study provides new insights into the challenges they face.

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