

FAQ

How does MATH198 differ to MATH199?

MATH199 is no longer offered for 2026 enrolments and will be replaced with our new zero fee, zero credit MATH198 course. The content and delivery model remains the same.

How does MATH198 differ from other STAR courses?

In 2026 most STAR courses at UC carry a fee of \$671 per 15 points, and these points can be credited towards a UC qualification. MATH198 is free. While it does not carry points, it does act as a prerequisite for our 200-level MATH and EMTH papers.

What scholarships are available to MATH198 students?

The University of Canterbury offers a wide range of scholarships for students, visit our scholarship page for more information: www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/scholarships.

Does MATH198 carry a grade despite being a zero credit course?

Yes, your MATH198 grade will be taken into consideration when GPA calculations are made. This can be particularly beneficial for entry into highly competitive disciplines for the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons).

If I come to UC to study engineering after passing MATH198, do I have to take first year engineering maths?

No, you can take other courses instead. A B+ in MATH198 is sufficient preparation for EMTH210.

Can MATH198 be cross-credited to other universities?

As MATH198 is a zero-credit course, it does not allow transfer of credits to UC or other university degrees. However, other universities may consider MATH198 a sufficient entry point into their relevant 200-level programmes. This is at their discretion.

I'm an international student. Can I enrol in MATH198?

Yes, you will need to submit your visa with your application. Visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/star for details.

Do I need to have done NCEA Level 3 Calculus?

Not all schools offer acceleration programmes, so we will consider enrolments with only Level 2 Mathematics results for students taking Level 3 Calculus concurrently with MATH198. Equivalent preparation in Cambridge or IB is also acceptable.

How to apply

- Visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/star for instructions.
- Get sign-off from your school and caregiver.
- Provide proof of identity (passport or birth certificate).
- Talk to your careers advisor or head of maths if you need help.

Contact

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PŪAO STAR

MATH198 (C)

Explore MATH198, our new zero fee, zero credit course aimed at students who want to push beyond high-school maths and start university with confidence.

Introducing MATH198

Are you excelling in mathematics at school? Already tackling advanced calculus and keen for more? If you're ready to extend yourself, UC's free MATH198 course might be for you.

"The STAR Maths course has given me a good idea of what the workload of a real university paper is like, and it's given me the confidence that I can succeed in the subject. Coming on campus every week has been fun, I've met like-minded people, and it's helped me get used to UC's learning environment. I'd definitely recommend the course to anyone willing to put in the time and effort as it's been super rewarding."



Oscar

2025 STAR student from
Burnside High School

Push beyond high school maths

If you're a high-achieving student, MATH198 offers the opportunity to challenge yourself with university-level linear algebra and calculus and push beyond the standard year 13 curriculum.

Start university with confidence

Learn in a tertiary teaching style with lectures, tutorials, and exams. You'll be exposed to the pace of university and have access to tutors along with a range of student services to support you. Past students have commented that taking the course has eased their transition from school to university. You'll also meet like-minded students and can start building valuable connections.

Discover UC life

You will be required to attend classes on campus from 4.15pm to 6.30pm every Thursday during the UC term time. This not only allows you to meet fellow students and build connections, but it also helps you to familiarise yourself with the campus and facilities.

Free up your future timetable

A B+ in MATH198 sets you up to take 200-level MATH or EMTH during your first year of university, leaving space in your schedule to select additional personal-interest subjects or added flexibility if you choose to pursue a conjoint degree.

Boost your GPA

Your MATH198 grade can be used in place of EMTH118 and EMTH119 in your engineering first year grade point average (GPA). First year GPA is used to determine placement into our limited-entry engineering disciplines in the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours.

A solid MATH198 result is also a great addition to your CV, scholarship, or hall of residence application. UC reserves 65 beds for MATH198 graduates.

How the course works

- MATH198 runs to the university timetable, not the school terms.
- MATH198 is a full year course, running parallel with MATH102 in semester 1 and MATH103 in semester 2.
- Assessments consist of weekly quizzes and attendance, tests, and an assignment, with an exam at the end of each semester.
- Course material is presented in comprehensive online resources for self-study.
- Students come on campus each Thursday for a lecture and tutorial.
- The course requires around 8 hours of work per week.

What you'll need

- Proven success in mathematics. For example, 20 Level 3 Calculus credits with Excellences, or very strong Level 2 Mathematics if taking Level 3 concurrently.
- Your application will need to be endorsed by the STAR coordinator at your school.
- Ability to work independently and stay organised.
- Time to fit at least 8 hours of study into your week.
- MATH198 students must be enrolled in an NZ high school.