

# MYTHS ABOUT MATHS AT UNI



**MYTH** You have to be a genius to succeed at tertiary maths.

Not true - even if you struggled with maths at school. Why? Well, things will be different now:

1. High school focussed on key *methods* used in maths and introduced the *thinking* and *investigation* skills you will need. University maths focuses much more on the latter.
2. At Uni *you* get to control *how* you study (called **independent learning**).

So, remembering methods and formulas is still useful but you also need some **imagination** and a willingness to **engage with ideas**. If you work hard, seek advice when you need it and take control of your studies, you can succeed at maths.



**MYTH** Maths isn't important for the job I want to get.

Well, you may not use much of the content of your maths units but the *process* of studying maths enhances your ability to **examine situations, analyse problems** and **pose effective solutions**.

Employers find that these abilities are demonstrated best by success in maths at a tertiary level, so your performance now may well be a key factor in your future career!

It's worth knowing that mathematics is becoming more important in the modern world but less visible in our daily lives. Remember, behind every smartphone app is a computer programmer using maths.



**MYTH** Maths is boring.

Sure, adding numbers and stuffing them into formulas is very boring. But this is not what maths is about!

**Maths is really a collection of intuitive ideas** which have been building for thousands of years. Every new idea in maths pushes the world forward somehow. This is most evident in technology, where maths gives us powerful ways of storing and encrypting information.



## (ma+hs)Smart

Maths and statistics

More maths and stats information is available at <http://www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au/>

- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Drop-In study sessions
- ✓ Online resources

### Helpful Websites

Student Services: [www.studentservices.uwa.edu.au](http://www.studentservices.uwa.edu.au)

New students: [www.transition.uwa.edu.au](http://www.transition.uwa.edu.au)



### Like this Survival Guide? Why not check out...

Survival Guides: *Maths or stats lectures*, *Keeping up with maths or stats*, *Being stuck on maths problems*, *Studying for maths or stats exams*, *A maths or stats service course*, *Study smarter not harder*, *Studying at UWA*.

### Want to know more about STUDYSmarter?

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### Any suggestions?

We'd love to hear from you. Email us at [study.smarter@uwa.edu.au](mailto:study.smarter@uwa.edu.au)

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