



Newsletter for New Graduate Students Department of Mathematics

Early Summer 2020

Welcome to UK Mathematics! As a new graduate student, you are indeed a part of a talented group of students. We are excited to be part of your journey and hope the information in this Early Summer newsletter will make the beginning of graduate school a little smoother. You will receive another newsletter in mid-July with details on “start of program” information!

By now, you should have received a letter from the Graduate School. Please complete the steps stated in this letter. You may send your final transcripts to gradtranscripts@uky.edu

Set up your online accounts:

You will find your Student ID and the User ID in your Graduate School acceptance letter in ApplyYourself. Activate your LinkBlue account (you will use this for registering for classes, viewing grades, and other student computing resources.) Go to: <http://www.uky.edu/its/customer-support-student-it-enablement/customer-services/linkblue-account> If you need help setting up your account or email, please send an email to 218HELP@uky.edu or call 859-218-HELP (4357) or view the tutorial https://uky.service-now.com/techhelp?id=kb_article&sysparm_article=KB0011413

Note: You can find a PDF of your acceptance letter by logging into your application on ApplyYourself and clicking on **Decision: Print**.

Find a place to live. If you have not yet arranged for housing in Lexington, you may be interested in a survey of our current graduate students about their impressions of various apartments and houses they have leased in the Lexington area (that **document is attached**). I can also put you in touch with some of our current students, just let me know how we can assist you.

If you are looking for a roommate, you are welcome to reach out to other new students who are on this list (Kyle Hammer mentioned that he is looking for a roommate!)

The University Housing Office also provides information about graduate student housing – both on-campus and off-campus <http://www.uky.edu/housing/about-graduate-family-housing>

International Students: Your letter from the Graduate School has information concerning the immigration process, preparing your visa documentation and completing the international application.
[http://international.uky.edu/sites/international.uky.edu/files/Becoming%20a%20Wildcat 2018 2019 GRAD 0.pdf](http://international.uky.edu/sites/international.uky.edu/files/Becoming%20a%20Wildcat%202018%202019%20GRAD%200.pdf)

August Dates: **Attached** you will find the August calendar with the events listed which you will need to attend.

Peer Mentor: On behalf of the GSC (Graduate Student Council), I am sending a link to a Peer Mentor survey. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey which will be used to help match you with a peer mentor for your first year. The GSC would like to have all surveys by **June 19th at 5pm** so they can begin reviewing and matching grad students. If you have any questions or concerns, please let Rejeana know.
<https://forms.gle/ptTrFudUHnSUvZdAA>

University TA Orientation and Mathematics Department Orientation: These are two orientations are required activities for all new graduate students. The mandatory University TA Orientation is August 13-14 and the mandatory Mathematics Department Orientation is August 13-14.

UK Math Early Orientation, August 10-12: The math department offers a three-day “Early Orientation” which is **highly recommended** for all new graduate students. The main activity for the early orientation is to collaboratively read through one or two math papers. Unlike most grad school orientation activities, we will spend most of our time doing math! This experience is a low-pressure, fun way to get to know your fellow students, and to get a sense of what will be expected of you in our program before classes actually start. **Please RSVP to Rejeana Cassady no later than June 30 if you plan to attend the pre-orientation.**

New Director of Graduate Studies starting July 1: Professor Peter Hislop will be finishing his 4-year term as Director of Graduate Studies for mathematics on June 30, and, starting July 1, Professor Ben Braun will be taking over the position. Peter Hislop writes that “I’ve enjoyed working with each one of you through the recruiting process this year and look forward to seeing you in Lexington in August.” Prof. Braun says: “Hi new graduate students! I am excited that you are joining the UK Math Department this fall, and I look forward to meeting all of you at orientation. If you have any questions about this coming year, you are welcome to email me at benjamin.braun@uky.edu.”

The COVID-19 Outbreak and UK Planning for Fall 2020: Like other universities, UK’s campus has been closed since March 23, with all instruction moved online for Spring and Summer 2020. The University plans to open in August for the Fall 2020 semester. In order to ensure the health, safety and well-being of everyone in our community, and given the uncertainties facing us over the next several months, UK has formed a Coronavirus Workgroup that is making contingency plans in case we need to have a delayed start, offer hybrid courses, move to online instruction, etc. A campus operational plan for Fall 2020 will be prepared and communicated to the UK community by mid-June. If you are interested to learn more about UK’s plans, details about this workgroup can be found here: <https://www.uky.edu/coronavirus/campus-restart>

Once the UK campus operational plan is released, the mathematics department will ensure that our orientation activities for new graduate students align with this plan. Whether it be in-person, over zoom, or in a combination of these formats, we will be ready to welcome you to the department and make sure that you have an excellent start to your graduate studies. We will stay in regular communication with you about our plans for Fall 2020 as they develop. Our next update about this topic will probably be in late June or early July, after we receive the complete campus operating plan. At this time, we are asking all incoming graduate students to plan to be on-campus for in-person coursework in Fall 2020.

If you have any questions throughout the summer, send Rejeana Cassady rejeana.cassady@uky.edu or Peter Hislop peter.hislop@uky.edu an email and we will be happy to assist you!

All the best as you make plans to move to Lexington!