Job Study Report

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The Maths/Physics career I chose for this report is that of a mathematics lecturer.

The duties and responsibilities of maths lecturer include, but are not limited to, teaching students, via lectures, tutorials, etc., supervision of student projects, research in ones particular field, and, often, administrative duties. As someone responsible for the education of younger minds, the role of a lecturer is an important, and often overlooked in the progression of students into a profession. A lecturer who has a strong ability to perform their duties can often be a role model for their students, inspiring them to follow into the field. A poor lecturer, at least from my own perspective, can be not only uninspiring or disliked, but demoralising as well. This is why I feel it is truly the responsibility of the lecturer to take an interest in the education they give.

The role of maths and physics is evident in the career of a mathematics lecturer, of course there is the constant reading, writing and lecturing. Whether lectures are pertaining to more physical subjects like mechanics, or more abstract ones like group theory, not only the maths, but the applications to physics are ever-present.

Often, in the career of a maths lecturer, not only are there a relatively constant increases to benefits and wages, as is structured by the third level teacher’s union TUI. But prospects for advancement are always available for college positions such as professorship, school head, head of undergraduates, dean of research, etc. As well as this there are relatively constant prospects for travel, to conferences, for visiting professorship, or simply for working abroad.

Information on lecturer, college teacher, and senior lecturer pay scales are freely available at the TUI website. Starting salaries for assistant lecturers range from 45,000 to 60,000 euros depending on years worked, for college teachers, from 47,000 to 80,000 euros, and lecturers from 59,000 to 103,000 euros, all depending on years worked. For most lecturers, this is well above the average salary in Ireland, and does not even include senior lecturers and professors.

Employers for mathematics lecturers are abundant not only across Ireland and Europe, but the world. For example any university or institute of technology in the country, such as Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, Munster Technological University, or University College Dublin. Farther afield, there are many universities across England and Europe, such as Edinburgh University, King’s College London, or the Sorbonne.

I would like think that I would be suited for this career. I have always had a passion for talking about and teaching my friends about topics in maths and theoretical physics I find interesting. I have always wanted to do research, since I first fell in love with maths and physics in secondary school, and would love to help foster that same love in others. I would like to think my passion for teaching is not contained to physics, as I have also helped people learn how to sail in Cork during my summers.

I think the largest barriers for me to get into this career would be making it through the tough process of getting through a postgraduate degree, and resisting the temptation of more lucrative, but less satisfying careers, such as those in technology and finance. Certainly to become a lecturer in today’s environment, one must earn a postgraduate degree, a masters, or preferably a doctorate. One must also find an employer with whom one could do significant research into the fields one is interested in. Personally, I would like to do some research or lecturing abroad in Britain or Europe before settling in Ireland, but of course, this would only be subject to conditions out of my control, such as my own eligibility, or the available opportunities.

[The source for the teaching payscales is here](https://www.tui.ie/third-level-pay-pensions/third-level-salary-scales-.2167.html).