

Simi Hellsten

1st Year Mathematics Undergraduate

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Summary and Interests

A motivated and creative undergraduate maths students, with aspirations to pursue mathematics research and education. I have experience in creating and delivering academic content to a deadline, both individually and as a team, with particular focus on high-school students.

- Mathematics** My passion for maths has lead me to pursue it at all levels, from earning medals in the British Mathematics Olympiads in high-school, to studying it at university. I ran the Maths Society during A Levels, allowing me to present and discuss mathematical concepts with other students on a weekly basis.
- Linguistics** The appeal of patterns and analytical thinking has also inspired a love of linguistics. This culminated in my representing the UK at the International Linguistics Olympiad from 2017-2020, including winning two gold medals, and now working to develop papers and train competitors myself.

Education

- 2020–2024 **MMath Mathematics**, *University of Oxford*, St John's College.
- 2018–2020 **A Level**, *Bournemouth School*.
Achieved 4 A*s in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics.
- 2016–2018 **GCSE**, *Bournemouth School*.
Achieved 11 Grade 9s, including English, Mathematics, and triple science. Achieved A⁺ in Level 2 Further Mathematics.

Experience

- March 2021 **Maths Study Day Assistant**, *St John's College*.
I have worked as an undergraduate assistant at an Access study day, aimed at encouraging state-school students to pursue maths. This included:
- leading 2 hour-long sessions on mathematical problem solving for 16- and 17-year-olds;
 - helping students with set exam-style questions;
 - answering questions about and giving advice on the Oxford application process.
- 2020–present **Test Developer**, *UK Linguistics Olympiad*.
I am a leading member of the test development team at UKLO, which includes:
- constructing problems for use in linguistics olympiads in the US and UK (for examples, see Ngkolmpu, Hmong and Tawala on the Advanced and Round 2 papers [here](#));
 - testing submitted problems, and single-handedly creating a shortlist of candidate problems;
 - cooperating with the rest of the team to design the final Round 1 and Round 2 papers.
- I also am involved in training, and created a preparatory document for Round 2 contestants, available [here](#).
- 2018–present **Private Tutor**.
As a private tutor, I have worked with children aged 12-18 in mathematics and the sciences, in several key areas:
- building confidence in younger students, particularly those who find maths unintuitive;
 - pushing high-achieving students to attain the best possible grades;
 - securing the necessary grades in final exams for students to progress to their next step;
 - focusing on mathematical ideas and techniques rather than only exam-style problems.

References

- Prof. Stuart White**, *Tutor in Mathematics*, stuart.white@maths.ox.ac.uk.
- Prof. Richard Hudson**, *Chair of UK Linguistics Olympiad*, r.hudson@ucl.ac.uk.