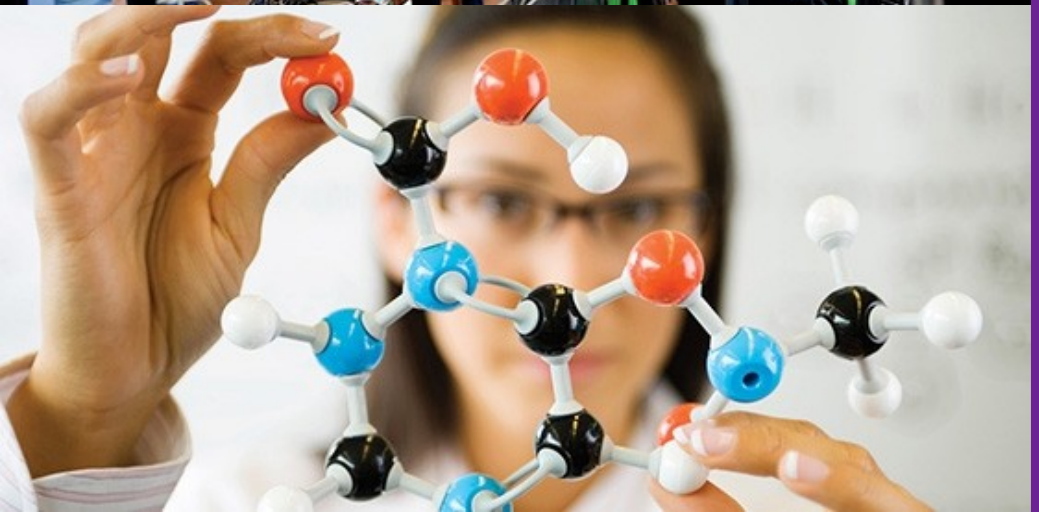

University of Cape Town
Faculty of Science

MAKING CHOICES

on degrees, majors and timetables

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Shane Murray
2016

Part 0

Who are we?

Part I

Where are you and where are you going?

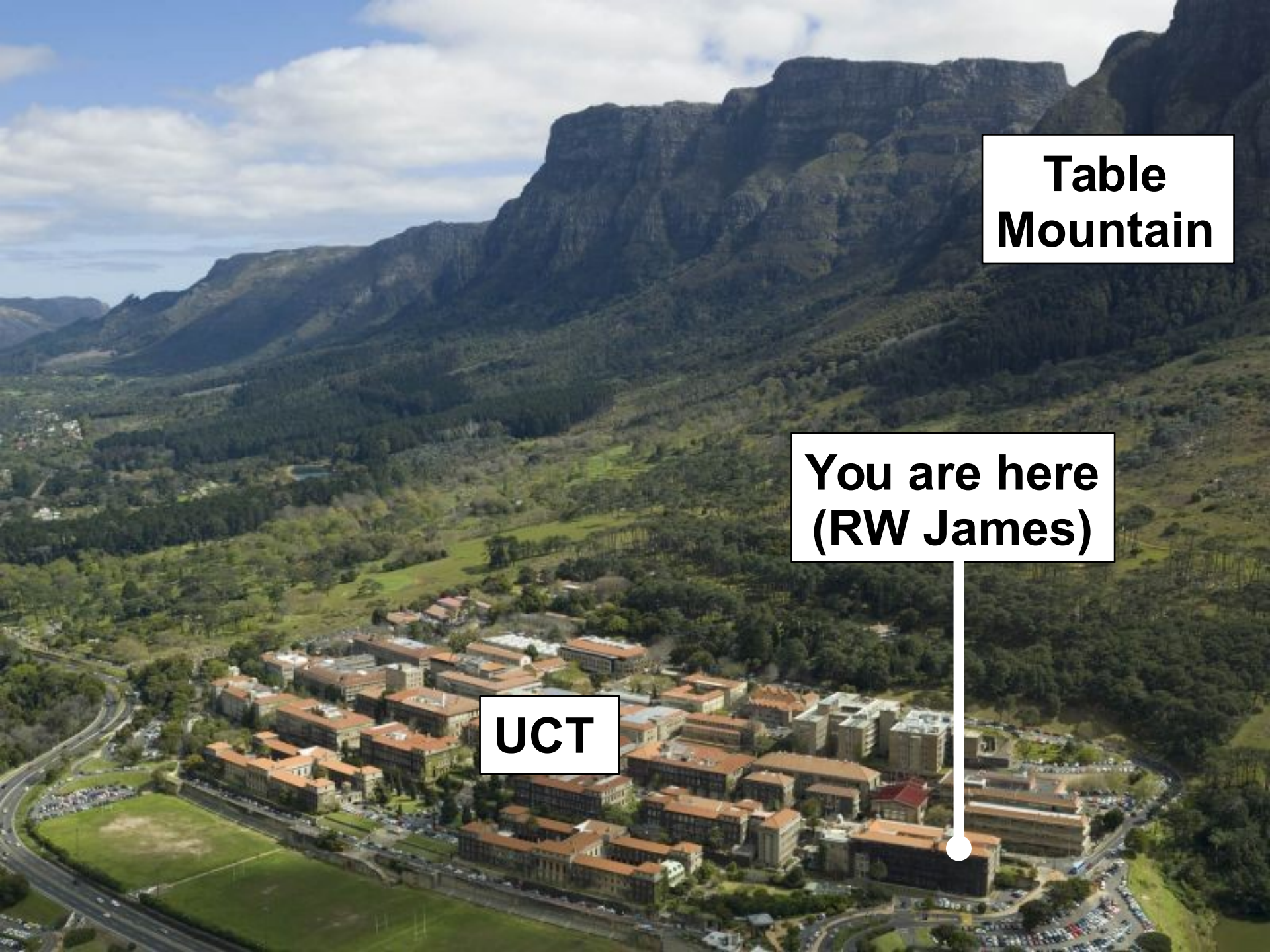
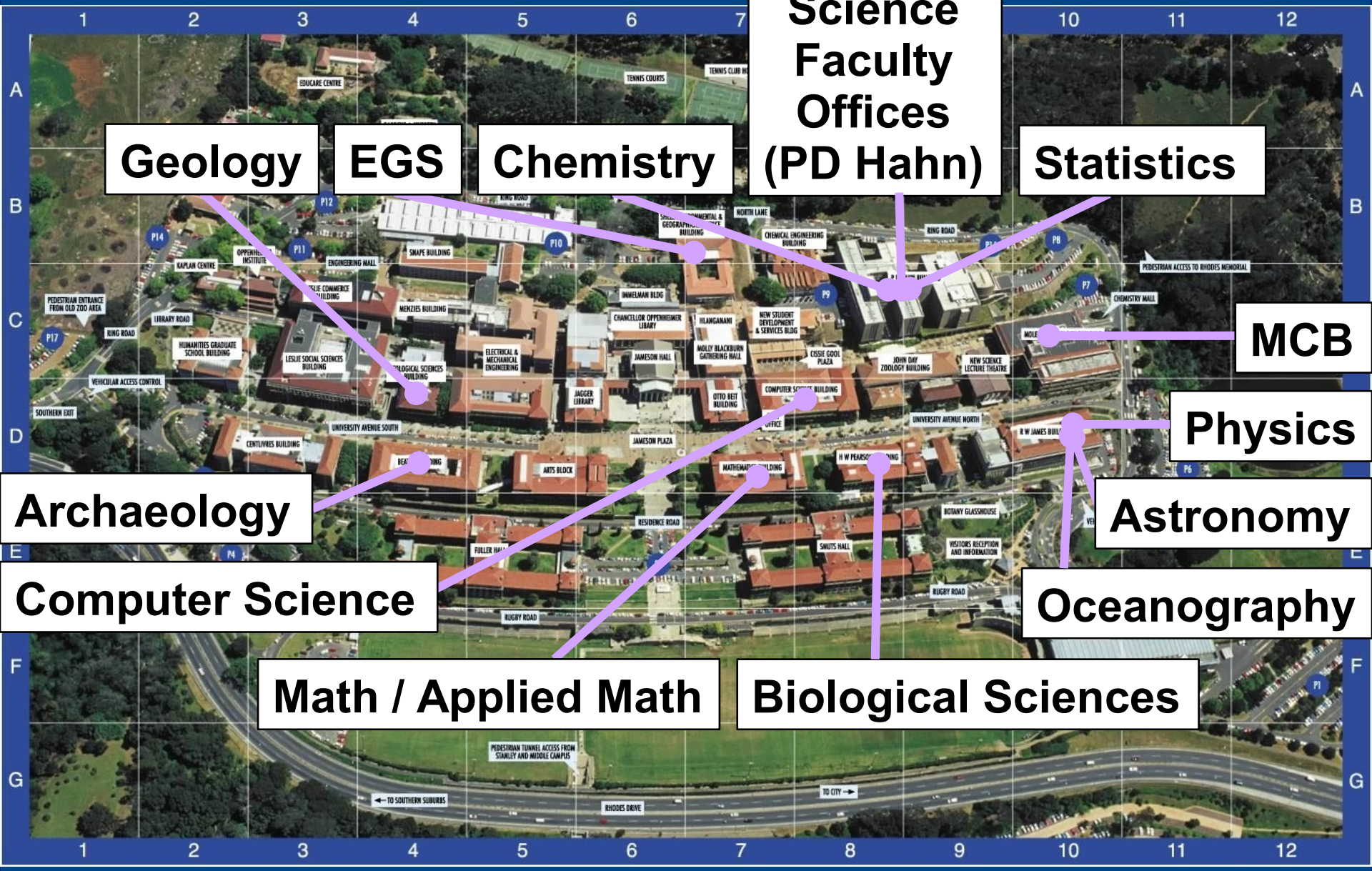


Table Mountain
You are here (RW James)
UCT


Science Faculty Offices (PD Hahn)
Geology
EGS
Chemistry
Statistics
MCB
Physics
Astronomy
Oceanography
Biological Sciences
Math / Applied Math
Computer Science
Archaeology

Questions to be addressed in this session

- What is the structure of a BSc degree?
- What are **majors** and **courses**, and how are these put together in a degree curriculum and timetable?
- What choices do I have to make?
  - two majors
  - the right first year courses that will provide the foundation for chosen majors

Some other questions to be addressed during the rest of this week:

- Where will my lectures be?
- How do I get the most out of lectures and other learning opportunities?
- Where do I go for help?
- What if I get sick, or miss a test?

Look out for these in other sessions or ask your OL

What you will have done ... by Friday (5 Feb)

- chosen your majors
- chosen courses for your first year
- completed registration forms with the help of a Student Adviser
- submitted registration forms for processing
- **registered as a UCT Science student!**

What you will have done ... by Wednesday (10 Feb)

- be familiar with UCT computing systems
- have some insights into how you will approach your academic studies
- know where to go for help

be ready to attend your first lectures on ... Friday 12 February 2015 !!!

Key people who are available to advise and assist

- Orientation assistants
  - purple T-shirts
- Student Advisers
  - advice on academic and curriculum matters
- Faculty Office, level 6, PD Hahn Building
  - general queries re academic status, registration, etc.
- Student Development Officer, Bhavani Krishna (via Faculty Office)
  - general advice and counselling

In a few years, we want to see you here

in a few more years, this could be you too

Part II

Your Choices Right Now

The structure of a BSc degree

Major **1**	1st year courses	2nd year courses	3rd year courses
Major **2**	1st year courses	2nd year courses	3rd year courses
Elective courses	1st or 2nd or 3rd year courses, subject to Faculty rules and with approval of SA		

A total of 9 courses is required for the BSc degree, where these are chosen according to the rules on pages 9-27 of the 2016 Handbook.

What is a major?

- a three-year sequence of courses in a specific discipline
- provides depth of knowledge in that discipline
- often with pre-requisite or co-requisite courses that provide relevant knowledge in other disciplines

- *pre-requisite course: must be completed before*
- *co-requisite course: must be done at the same time*
- *elective course: chosen by you, counts towards course requirements of degree*

Majors offered in the Science Faculty

(Handbook - pages 15-27)

Molecular & Chemical Sciences	Numerical Sciences	Biology, Earth & Environmental Sciences
Biochemistry	**Applied Mathematics**	**Applied Biology**
Chemistry	**Applied Statistics**	**Archaeology**
Genetics	**Astrophysics**	**Ecology & Evolution**
Human Anatomy & Physiology	**Business Computing**	**Environmental & Geographical Science**
	Computer Engineering	**Geology**
	Computer Games Development	**Marine Biology**
	Computer Science	**Ocean & Atmosphere Science**
	Mathematics	
	Mathematical Statistics	
	Physics	

How do I choose a major?

- Questions to ask yourself:
  - What am I interested in?
  - What am I good at?
  - What kind of work am I interested in?
  - (is there any money in it?)

Attend information sessions today:

14h00 – attend one of the four sessions

15h00 – attend one of the four sessions

Where can I find full details on Majors?

Science Handbook, pages 15-27

Sample handbook entry

Major in Mathematics (MAM02)

First Year Core Courses

Course Code	Course Title	NQF Credits	HEQSF Level
MAM1000W	Mathematics 1000	36	5
MAM1019H	Fundamentals of Mathematics	18	5

Second Year Core Courses

Course Code	Course Title	NQF Credits	HEQSF Level
MAM2000W	Mathematics 2000	48	6

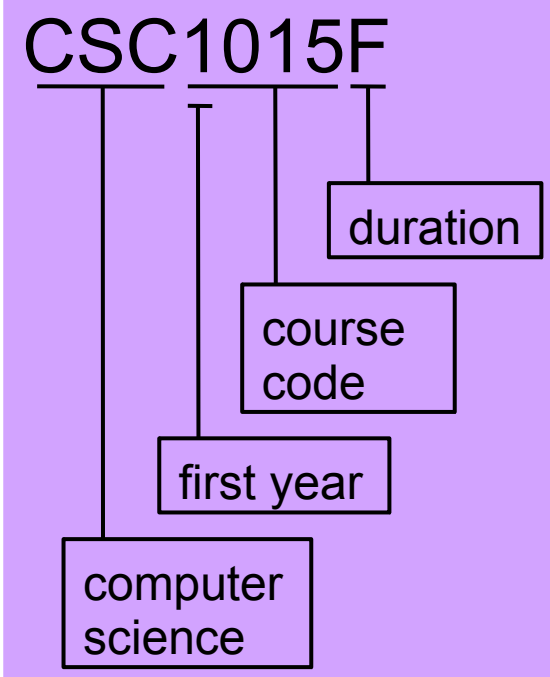
Third Year Core Courses

Course Code	Course Title	NQF Credits	HEQSF Level
MAM3000W	Mathematics 3000	72	7

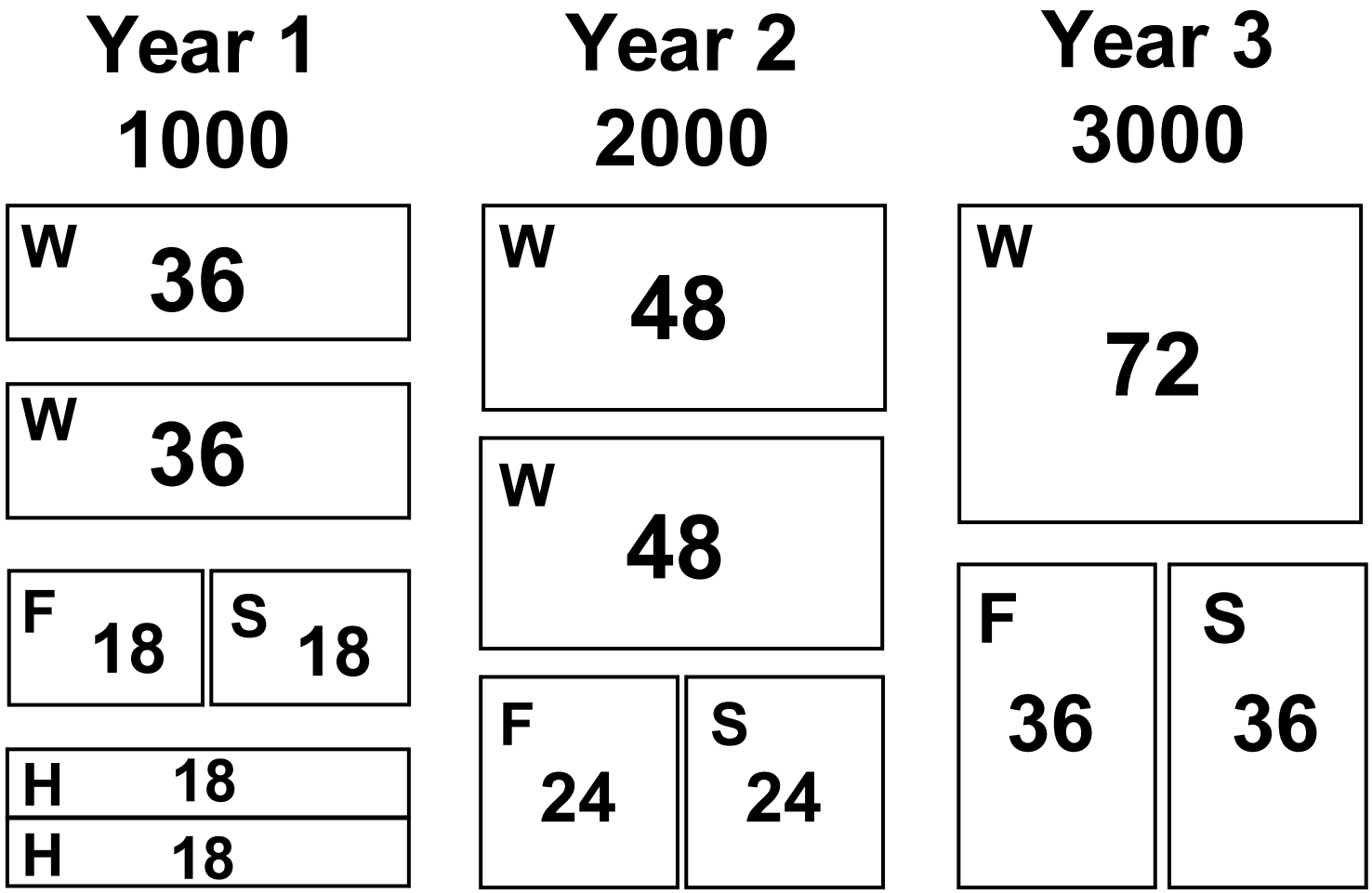
What makes up a Course?

- typically 1 lecture per day + 1 practical or tutorial per week
- structure of courses
  - **W** : full course; Whole year
  - **F** : half course; First semester
  - **S** : half course; Second semester
  - **H** : half course; Whole year

Example course code:

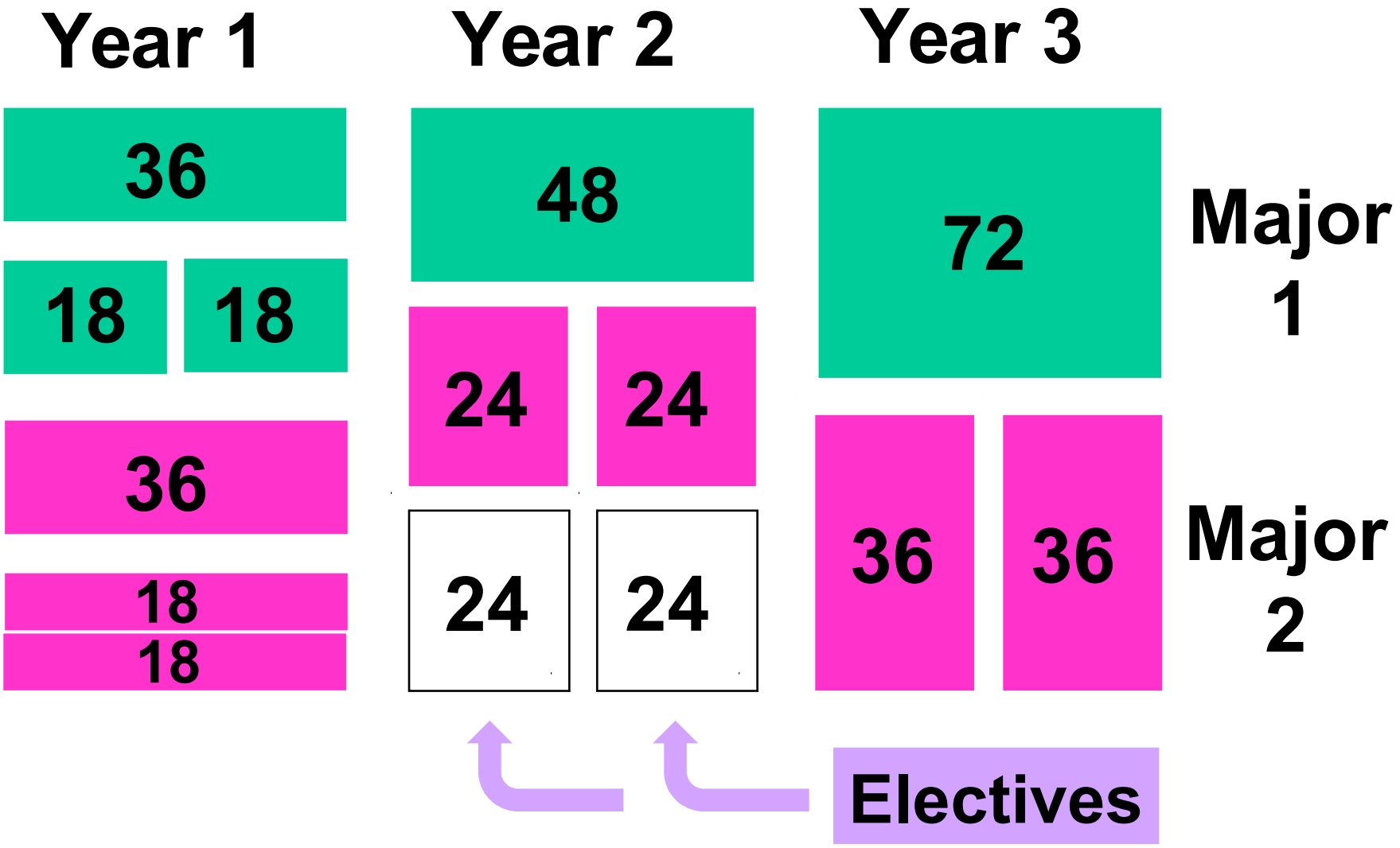


Summary of the credit value of courses



Numbers in boxes are HEQF credit values

Sample Curriculum



Weekly Timetable

Time	Period	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
8h00	1	MAM	MAM	MAM	MAM	MAM
9h00	2	CEM	CEM	CEM	CEM	CEM
10h00	3	PHY	PHY	PHY	PHY	PHY
11h00	4					
12h00	5	CSC	CSC	CSC	CSC	CSC
14h00-18h00	6-8	Practicals and tutorials				

Extended Degree Programme (EDP)

Option of a BSc degree over 4 years

- Success in your studies is dependent on
  - making the right choices
  - doing something you enjoy
  - establishing effective study habits
  - pacing yourself – taking the right academic load

- Making the choice to enter the EDP
  - **all Science students** will write tests from Friday 11th to Tuesday 15th March
  - on the basis of these and other factors, we will help you make a decision on whether to transfer to the EDP, allowing you to pace your studies carefully over 4 years.

Having difficulty deciding on a major(s)?

We suggest:

- choose a first year curriculum that will allow maximum choice in your second year

Example 1

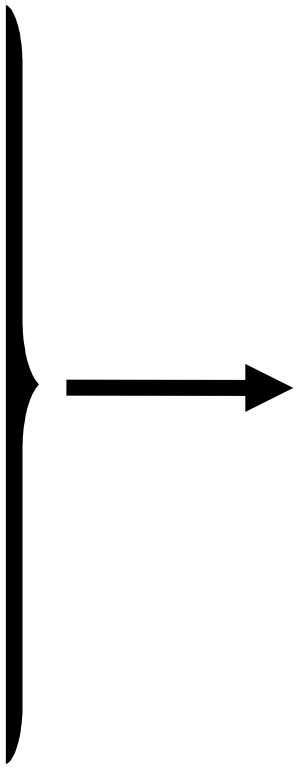
first year courses

Math + Stats

Chemistry

Biology

other



possible majors

Applied Biology

Biochemistry

Chemistry*

Ecology & Evolution

Human Anatomy & Physiology

Genetics

Marine Biology

***Chemistry requires MAM1000W and PHY1031/1032**

Example 2

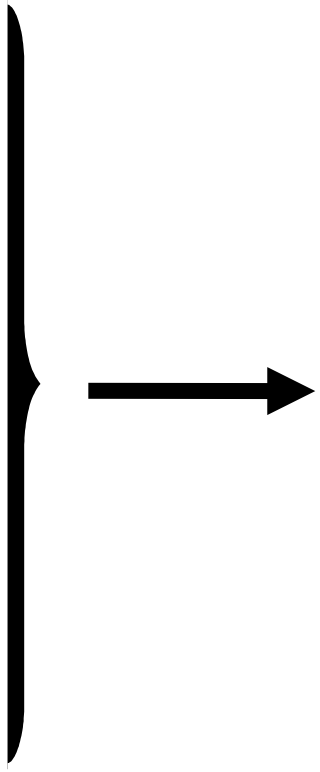
first year courses

Maths

Comp Sci

App. Maths

Physics



possible majors

Applied Mathematics

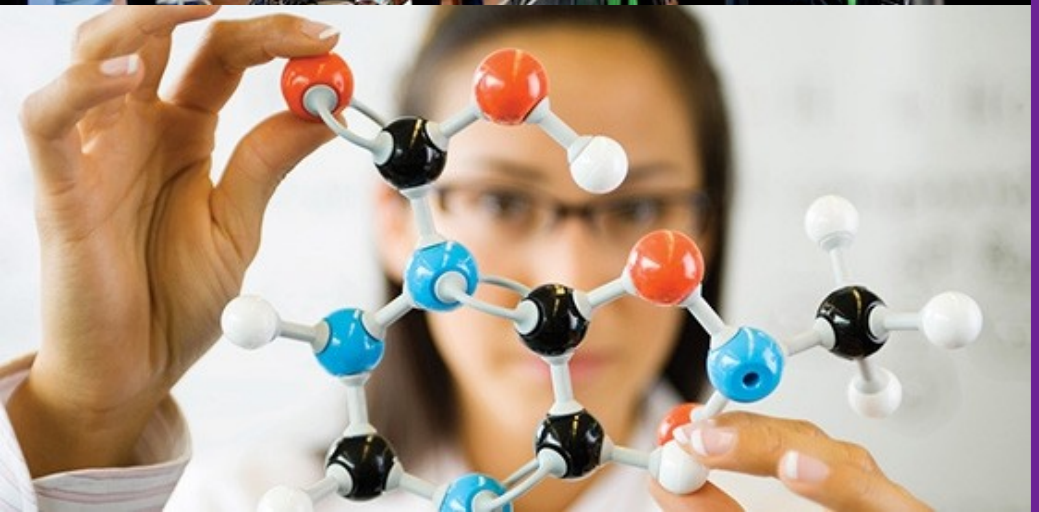
Computer Science

Computer Games

Computer Engineering

Mathematics

Physics



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the end

questions?