

Being a Professional Mathematician

What skills do you need to become a professional mathematician? – worksheet

Exercise

1) Here is a list, in alphabetical order, of some skills and attributes that might be useful to a professional mathematician setting out on their career:

- Ability to teach oneself about unfamiliar mathematical ideas
- Ability to use social networking sites
- Ability to work on one's own
- Computing skills
- Foreign language skills
- In-depth knowledge of some areas of mathematics
- LinkedIn presence
- Networking skills
- Oral communication skills
- Overview of different branches of mathematics
- Problem-solving skills
- Teamwork skills
- Time management skills
- Written communication skills

What other skills do you think might be necessary?

Which three skills would you regard as most important?

Which three skills listed above would you regard as least important?

Does it depend on the area in which the mathematician wishes to make their career?

It might help to listen to some of the interviews at www.BeingAMathematician.org. Relevant material can be found at the times indicated.

- Danny Brown (from 1:32)
- Nira Chamberlain (from 1:37)
- Peter Furness (from 4:21)
- Jay Jobanputra (from 0:30 and from 3:59)
- Sue Merchant (from 1:45)

- 2) For each of the skills and attributes listed above, rate yourself.

Which parts of your degree addressed each of these skills?

For the skills which you think are important, how do you demonstrate them in your CV?

How would you prove to an interviewer that you had these skills?

What can you do to improve these skills?

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