

Using Ask NRICH – information for Further Maths Network students

Ask NRICH can be found by going to www.nrich.maths.org and following the link at the left. If your tutor has already registered you, you should have received an e-mail with details of your password.

There are several sections to the web-board:

About Ask NRICH contains lots of useful information about how to use the board, including how to post maths notation that can't be typed on a keyboard.

Onwards and Upwards is the right section to post questions about A-level maths and further maths.

You may also be interested in the **NRIChtalk**, **Follow It Up**, **Who's Who** and **Reviews** sections; there are descriptions of each on the main index page.

The Ask NRICH team, whose posts appear in a fetching shade of cyan, will answer your maths questions. Don't expect straight answers; they'll be looking to help you understand, by giving hints and suggestions rather than a model answer. You may also get replies from other users of the forum; it is used by many school students, university students and adults from various parts of the world. NRICH staff post in green, so you'll recognise them, too. Some users have a Who's Who entry, so you can find out more about them.

To ask a question, you need to click on the link in Onwards & Upwards to "Start a new thread". It's really helpful if you can give us a context, as the team won't necessarily know that you are an A-level student. It's a good idea to make the title of the thread something like "FP1 – complex numbers", as that tells us very clearly what it's about and that you are a Further Maths student. But don't assume that everyone reading will know precisely what is in your syllabus or textbook! If you don't understand a reply you are given, do say so – if you can say where you stop understanding, then that helps us explain. If a reply is helpful, it's always nice if you let us know that, too.

You're welcome to ask questions that aren't related to your course; you'll see lots of discussions about different areas of maths, and in NRIChtalk there are discussions about music, games of chess, applications to university and all sorts of things.

It's fine to join in a discussion started by someone else, if it interests you. However, if you're suggesting how to solve something, then do say if you're not 100% sure, so that the team know to check what you've said. If in doubt, you can always leave it to the team. And don't go giving people pat answers, so that you help them to learn too – if you've just solved their problem yourself, it can be very tempting to give the answer rather than a hint.

We don't allow people to post e-mail addresses or other personal details on Ask NRICH. However you can choose to have the system send you an e-mail whenever someone replies to a discussion you've posted in. You can do this by clicking on "Edit Profile" (top right) and ticking "Replies to my posts". We recommend that you *don't* choose to have e-mail notification of everything in Onwards & Upwards, unless you like having a full inbox.

A lot of people "lurk" for ages before posting anything, but do be brave and join in! If you would rather that your full name doesn't appear on your posts, you can fix that by going to "Edit Profile" (top right) and changing it there.

For more information, do explore About Ask NRICH, in particular:

Good Posting Guidelines – how not to annoy people!

Beginners' guide to formatting – how to type maths so people can read it.

Your questions answered – for answers to questions about how the board works.

If you have any problems with using Ask NRICH, do e-mail asknrich@maths.cam.ac.uk