MA Program (Guidelines for Survey Paper and Seminar)

What is expected from students in survey paper?

Students are expected to identify a faculty member who agrees to supervise them for a survey paper. A final report of the survey paper, approved by the supervisor, must be submitted. As part of requirements for survey paper, the students would need to give an oral presentation (about 50 minutes presentation and a half hour Q/A period).

Two copies of the final version of the survey paper must be submitted to the Program within one week of the oral presentation.

Note: During COVID-19 pandemic, electronic submission of the final report would suffice.

How to find a supervisor?

Students are responsible for finding a supervisor. Guidelines are detailed in the link below


How are grades reported?

The grade for survey paper is pass or fail. The grades for any course are considered official following approval by the graduate program. The Faculty of Graduate Studies may change a grade if the program director reports a clerical error or if an appeal to the program results in a change of grade. Graduate course grades must be reported by the following dates:

Fall Term: January 15 (3.0 or 6.0 credit course)
Fall/Winter and Winter Term: May 15 (3.0 or 6.0 credit course)
Summer Term: September 15 (3.0 or 6.0 credit course)

If a course grade or approved Incomplete is not reported to the Registrar’s Office within one month of the appropriate reporting date, the course will be assigned a grade of ‘F’.

Withdrawal from a course in good standing:

The symbol (W) (withdrew in good standing) will be recorded in place of a grade to indicate that a student was authorized to withdraw in good standing from a course, before or after the posted drop deadline.

Seminar requirement

To fulfill the seminar requirement students must present two one-hour seminars. For each seminar, the topic is chosen in conjunction with faculty members (different supervisors for each talk), who will then grade the talks on a pass-fail basis. Topics can be chosen from any branch of mathematics, but should not be taken directly from the student’s course work, survey paper or thesis, although they can be related to such
material. The two talks can be from different areas of mathematics or the same area, but the second talk should not just be a continuation of the first.

Talks must be separated by one week, must be announced to the department at least one week before the talk is given, and must have at least 3 members of the York university community present in addition to the supervisor. In addition to giving the talks, students must attend the talks of other students in the Seminar. Documented evidence of attendance at six such talks is required.

**Note:** During COVID-19 pandemic, a minimum of 2 online-attendance talks is required.

**How to confirm attendance?**

The host (generally a faculty member) must sign the attendance form found at the link:


**What is acceptable as a seminar?**

Students can attend seminars by other students or faculty members, colloquia, DSO of PhD students, and thesis or dissertation defence.