Analysis of whether or not changes to the A level requirements might affect gender ratio of u/g intake.

1) Preamble
The Department has recently revised its A level requirements for BSc/MBiol Biology:

\begin{quote}
\textbf{Essential subjects}

Biology and either Chemistry or Maths at A2. Preference will be given to applicants with traditional academic subjects as the third A2 subject.

\textbf{Typical offers}

AAA/AAB including Biology and either Chemistry or Maths. We exclude General Studies from our offers.'
\end{quote}

Previously the requirement was for Chemistry only as the second subject. Thorunn Helgason carried out an analysis to examine if the change in u/g requirement affected gender ratio of 1st year intake in 2013-14.

2) Analysis by Thorunn Helgason

There is no evidence that the male entrants in the 2013 entry cohort were more likely to have A level maths than were females.

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{lcc}
 & Maths A level & \\
 & yes & no & total \\
female & 36 & 24 & 60 \\
male & 29 & 17 & 46 \\
total & 65 & 41 & 106 \\
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

(chi-sq analysis, $p = 0.7$).

3) Conclusion

This pattern likely follows through to 2014, because 60% or so of the cohort also have maths qualification.

So it is unlikely that changes to entry requirements, or A level subject choice \textit{per se}, are driving the apparent increase in male applicants. This pattern may be more likely to be grade/institution related.

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