MSc Data Science online chat session

This online chat session is for students interested in studying our MSc Data Science course. The session will be run by academic staff, giving you the opportunity to ask questions about your chosen course at City, University of London. As this is a typed chat group session, you will be able to see the answers to questions asked by other applicants.

Thank you for joining us for today’s CityChat session. This session is for students interested in studying our MSc Data Science course. This session runs from 16:30 - 17:30 (GMT). This is an open chat session for you to ask any questions you have regarding these courses and life at City, University of London. During the session, we may also share videos, polls or documents related to your course.

To ask a question, please type it in the chat box. Your question will not post straight away - it will be sent to our Moderators who will type an answer back. Once their answer is complete, it will be published with your question. Please make sure you say which course you have applied to when you post your question. You are also welcome to post just saying hi and introducing yourself!

Hi, I’m Aidan, the Programme Director. Looking forward to answering your questions.

Hi everyone, my name is Shanice and I work in marketing here at City :)

Hi, nice to chat with you today

Nice to chat with you too!

I have some questions, need your support to get their answers

Sure!

Hello Adrian and Shanice. Nice to e-meet you

Nice to meet you too!

Can you please run through your Data Science course briefly?

Sure. If you’re full time, it’s 4 modules in autumn term, 4 modules in spring term (including 2 electives) and then an independent research project in summer.
Hello all. I am considering doing the MSc in 2020 so have decided to hop on and ‘lurk’ while at work. No immediate questions so happy to just see what gets discussed. Perhaps one question to start off with - I guess Data Science as a Masters is relatively new, and there isn’t really a universally accepted “syllabus” for Data Science, in the way you might get for other degrees that lead into careers. So it is hard to know how various employers might value a DS MSc, over, say, Stats with a data flair, or Comp Sci with data modules. I guess I am in a position of not being really sure which the best route to take would be. Do you have any thoughts (from your experience/past students) whether employers truly value a MSc in Data Sci?

Our MSc has been running 6 or 7 years. Some students do our course straight from undergrad, others have been working for a few years and want to get into data science.

MSc in Data Science is highly valued and our students have no problems getting jobs at the end.

1st I would like to make sure that I am eligible for this course, I have a bachelor degree in business commerce (Accounting Section) and my current job is Micro segments Advanced Analytics and Marketing, I am using data science techniques as part of my role (I am good at Python, SQL, Advanced Microsoft office), would that make me eligible?

If you have at least a 2:1 and can demonstrate mathematical and coding ability, then yes.

Hi, regarding the independent research project, I heard that we can choose to intern in a company. Should a student get accepted as intern, how long should their study be extended?

If you your project as part of an internship, you get an extra 3 months (if you’re full time). So Oct 19 to Dec 20.
Hello all. I am considering doing the MSc in 2020 so have decided to hop on and 'lurk' while at work. No immediate questions so happy to just see what gets discussed. Perhaps one question to start off with - I guess Data Science as a Masters is relatively new, and there isn't really a universally accepted "syllabus" for Data Science, in the way you might get for other degrees that lead into careers. So it is hard to know how various employers might value a DS MSc, over, say, Stats with a data flair, or Comp Sci with data modules. I guess I am in a position of not being really sure which the best route to take would be. Do you have any thoughts (from your experience/past students) whether employers truly value a MSc in Data Sci?

I'd say our course is more applied and less statistical than some of the others. Our course was designed from the group-up, but some of the modules (e.g. Machine Learning) we've been teaching since before we started the DS course.

Can you please clarify what is the 2:1 equivalent in %

In UK, this is at least 60%.

Do you accept UK residents who are citizens of a different country? Does it require a student visa? What is the fees in this case?

Yes, we have many non-UK and also non-EU students. Fees are near the top right of [https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/data-science-msc](https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/data-science-msc) If outside EU, you'd need a "Tier 4 visa" which we would sponsor if we accept you

**Data Science MSc Course**

With City's MSc in Data Science course you can develop the skills and knowledge to analyse data in many forms and communicate insights.

![City University of London](image)

Aidan, how would one demonstrate math/coding ability? For example I've worked as an actuary for 10 years (which I guess is considered a highly numerate field of work), with a lot of 'modelling' & coding (but not necessarily in the well known languages but rather proprietary actuarial software packages). And a whole bunch of VBA. Self-teaching a bit of C and Python on the side. I guess that would meet the criteria but just wondering how you assess it?

Good questions! If you've done it as part of your degree, that's easy - we'd look at your transcript. If not, then it's more tricky. Say what you've done at work. Say whether you've done online courses. Maybe do a short course and submit your certificate.
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A good guide of what you need to know is here: [https://www.city.ac.uk/postgraduate-applicants-smcse/technical-skills-required-for-citys-msc-in-data-science](https://www.city.ac.uk/postgraduate-applicants-smcse/technical-skills-required-for-citys-msc-in-data-science)

**Technical skills required for City’s MSc in Data Science**

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Continue with my previous question. Is the extra 3 months necessary? If students wish to finish their course at the same time as other, is that possible. Who is the key decision maker on this point? (Both professor and the company?)

Because if you do an internship, we assume that you’re also doing work for the company. So you’ve effectively part time, so get 6 months instead of 3.

Continue with my previous question. Is the extra 3 months necessary? If students wish to finish their course at the same time as other, is that possible. Who is the key decision maker on this point? (Both professor and the company?)

It’s also good for non-EU students, because you’re allowed to do paid work if it’s as part of a degree.

Good, am I going to be tested for coding and mathematical ability, if yes, will it cover python only or other programming languages?

The course will be mainly Python and Matlab.

Good, am I going to be tested for coding and mathematical ability, if yes, will it cover python only or other programming languages?

But we’re not looking for software engineers. Just people who we know are happy with calling functions, loops, variables etc. Not advanced programming. Just enough to do data science with. See the advice: [https://www.city.ac.uk/postgraduate-applicants-smcse/technical-skills-required-for-citys-msc-in-data-science](https://www.city.ac.uk/postgraduate-applicants-smcse/technical-skills-required-for-citys-msc-in-data-science)

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Perfect thanks for answering, I'll take a look at that link again :)

Hope it's useful

Hi, do you accept non-UK residents? What are the requirements for non-UK residents? I'm Faridsh from Kenya and I have applied for the MSC Data Science course. I have a 2:1 in Economics but my transcript doesn't indicate any programming course. I am currently working as a Data Analyst along with data programming short courses on the side. Am I eligible for the course?

Yes, we have many non-EU students. Non-UK students need an equivalent of a 2:1. Depending on what you got for your degree, if think you'd be fine with economics, your programming experience as an analyst and short courses.

What is the deadline to submit my application, and can I submit now then attach the IELTS score and the short python, matlab course certificates later?

Yes, we can give you a conditional offer if we still need more information from you. By June, we're starting to fill up and we turn people away when we fill up. So apply well before then!

Hi Aidan, with regards to the part-time course how does the scheduling and module selection work?

You do 2 modules in autumn, 2 modules in spring, 2 modules the following autumn, 2 elective modules in the following spring and then your project is Jul-Dec. So part time is 27 months.

If I provide reference letters from my manager and a colleague that I am practicing data science techniques well at work, can it replace the short courses?

Yes, but make sure that you provide actual details of what programming to know and do, with examples. We just want to ensure that the people we accept onto the course will cope and understand that they will have to do coding. See the advice in the link I sent round.

What is the approximate time of giving feedbacks to applicants?

We aim for 3 weeks, but it may be longer.

Thanks. What would a typical week for a part-time student consist of?

We try very hard (and have always succeeded so far) to timetable both modules for part-time students onto a single day for three of the terms. This should help you fit the course in to whatever else you're doing.
Hi Aidan and Shanice. I was wondering if there were any materials that you could share from the Open Day a couple of weeks ago? Or is everything on the website?

If you email the course officer smcsepp@city.ac.uk, we could send you my slides.

In addition to the modules, we run weekly talks given by people from industry including former students. They are great and informative sessions - details here: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/schools/mathematics-computer-science-engineering/research/machine-learning/data-bites

**Data Bites - Evening Talks**  
Data Bites Seminar Series

[Image]

We also have 2 full-time teaching assistants who run drop-in sessions every week. We also run some some preparation sessions before the course starts. Our students are well-supported.

What kind of accommodation support does the university offer?

Hi, we have three postgraduate halls, all close to the main campus. Our team can also help you find private accommodation.

Here is the web page regarding postgraduate halls. I hope you find it helpful: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/living-in-london/accommodation/postgraduate-halls

**Postgraduate halls**  
Accommodation Team

[Image]

What would you say you are looking for from applicants/ in applications?

I'm looking for people with a good degree with the knowledge and skills that suggest they will succeed. But, I'm looking for people who show an interest in data science, know why they are doing it, how it fits in with their plans and which aspects of data science interest them the most. We have a broad cohort of people with different background and experience.
Are there any statistics that show the percentage of students who get data science related jobs within the 1st year of finishing this course?

I don't have any statistics, but anecdotally, students seem to have no problem getting jobs. Some students are offered job by their internship company.

Thanks a lot for your support and sufficient answers

Thanks - hope you got the answers you were looking for

If you have any questions on how to apply and what the supporting documents are, please have a look at the How to Apply section on the course pages on the website.

Please feel free to email smcsep@gcity.ac.uk, quoting the course you are interested in applying for, or call +44(0)20 7040 0248 between 9:00 – 17:00 GMT if you have any questions on application process.

Thank you both for your help and time.

Happy to help - hope you got the answers you were looking for.

Thank you both for your help and time.
No problem at all :)

Thanks for your help and answering our questions. Hoping to get a positive response soon in regard to my application :blush:. Thank you both for your Time.

No problem. Hope it was helpful.

Thank you for all of your questions! We still have 4 minutes left but if you would also like to talk to a MSc Data Science student ambassador, you can do so here: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/ask-a-student

Ask a student
Speak with one of our current students and find out more about what it is like to study at City.
Yes, it was very helpful.

Glad to hear!

This session has now ended. Thank you for joining us for today’s chat.

A transcript of this session will be sent out to everyone within two weeks. If you have any questions, please email pgemquiries@city.ac.uk

A pleasure chatting with you all today. Goodbye.