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!

Your moderators today are Dr Aidan Slingsby (Programme Director), Ana Raquel Pais (Course Officer) and Asthavan Selvarajah (Recruitment Team).

Hi, I’m Aidan Slingsby, the Programme Director. Happy to answer any questions you might have.

Hi, I’m Ana, Course Officer for the MSc Data Science course. Happy to answer your questions today.

hi all, I have got an unconditional offer on MSc Data Science and I realise City is opening MSc Artificial Intelligence from this year September, do we have any modules related to artificial intelligence?

Yes - but only one. It’s an (optional) elective on reinforcement learning.

Hi there, I have just one. I have just finished MSc in Analytical chemistry my question is: Is it possible for me to apply for this course

Yes! As long as there’s evidence of programming and maths.

Hi I’m interested in applying for the MSc Data Science Part Time course, how would the placements work for part time

Hi We have an internship programme, but this is only for full time students.

Hi ... I want to ask about how long is course..?
I am really interested in reinforcement learning! Would it be on first year or second year for part-time student?

Hi - second year

Hi, I also have a place in September - how many people do you normally have on the Data Science course in total? Are there many mature students? (I'm quite mature...)

Hi, on average, 110 spaces available on the course

I want to know about total expense and total University fee?

Hi, current fees for international students are £17,500 full time or £8,750 per year part-time.

Honestly speaking there is math but no programming

Hi, there's both both maths and programming in the courses. More programming.

How can I get admission in this course??

Hi, you can apply for this course on our website, [https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/data-science-msc](https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/data-science-msc)

**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.

Hello, I am and considering applying for the MSc in Data Science, full time. I would like to know more about the course timetable. How many days a week do students normally attend during a typical week?

Hi, it varies - expect 3 days a week.
Is there any application fees?

Hi, no application fees

Hi there, How much programming expertise needed for the course? Will an online course in Python be sufficient?

Online Python will be sufficient, but we favour evidence that you have

Oh well, what level is required

Hi Jessica - check out this link: 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

CITY
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
EST 1924

What's the application process like for PT? Are there going to be an interview with programming tests?

Hi

No there are no tests/ interviews. The process is a simple application process which you can find further information here: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/data-science-msc

Data Science MSc Course

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hello as data analyst how I qualify to study data science? would you consider it as relevant work experience?

Hi

Yes, we would consider than as relevant work experience, but we also have minimum entry requirements
nice and I assume reinforcement learning is about the agent taking actions according to the state and get reward/punishment like Q learning?

Thanks right. It’s a form of Deep Learning.

what programming languages I need to know SQL? Python? anything else? and how good should be mine programing skills before starting course?

Python will suffice, but any evidence that you can cope with scripting. You won’t be writing software, just using code to use libraries to do analysis. You won’t be doing advanced coding.

Are all students guaranteed internships? What is the percentage of successful placements? Which companies offered internships for 2019 summer?

Not guaranteed - you’ll be interviewed by the company and they choose. But we have many. Last year, 24% of the cohort did internships. In general, if you want to and you’re good, you’ll get one. But you can only do internships if you pass all the modules first time. (Most do!)

Any admission criteria??

Are you referring to entry requirements? If so, these are available on our website under ‘Entry Requirements’; https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/data-science-msc

Data Science MSc Course

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How you think after finishing course will I be able to build data models without any support?

You’ll have learnt the basic principles and may have chosen to apply them in your project. This is a good starting point, from which to get the experience you need. Many companies are looking for people with the basic knowledge that you’ll learn on the course

also Aidan, in what language would we be taught in neural computing? I heard current students reflected that they would like to switch to Python but not sure if there is any update from the school
Machine Learning and Neural Computer currently use Matlab. There are plans to switch to Python one day. But probably not by next year. However, I think it’s good to learn multiple languages and exactly the same principles will apply. The principles persist, but languages and libraries come and go.

Do you have any information about what kind of jobs previous students have gone onto?

Not formally, but anecdotally, startups, banks and retail organisations are common. Some go into research.

How you think after degree will I be able to solve kaggie projects?

I think you’d be well-placed. You’ll have a broad overview of the different methods you could use.

is part-time taught 1 day per week (year 1 and 2)

Part-time is usually taught over two days per week and over a duration of two years

Is City’s Data Science program better than QMUL, Exeter, Surrey? What is the selling point of studying in City? Concerned as it is ranked very low as compared to others

I can’t say if it’s better - but it’s very applied and may have more links with industry than others. I suggest you check out the modules they offer and see which mix you like best. We are strong on research

is part-time taught 1 day per week (year 1 and 2)

We try (very hard) and only have part-time student come in one day a week on the first year. Not guaranteed, but we try very hard. And so far, this has been the case

As I understand its one full day on Wednesday for PT, when is the other day?

The timetable has not been agreed for the next academic year. At present, in the first term it took place on a Wednesday and the second term on a Friday. This is not guaranteed for the next academic year.

yeah agree, another question please, what libraries in Python are mostly used in the course for data analytics? would it be numpy, pandas and matplotlib?

The Principles of Data Science module is based on Python with Numpy and Pandas being the key libraries used
is part-time taught 1 day per week (year 1 and 2)

Sorry the part-time course usually runs over one day and not two. This academic year, the first time takes place on a Wednesday and on a Friday in the second term.

Sorry I think for term 1 and 2 part time it would be only a day per week as advertised on the webpage?

Yes, we try and only have PT students come in one day a week in the first year. For the last 5 years, it has been Wed in term 1 and Fri in terms 2, but this may change. Second year is likely to be 2 days.

"Students will need to attend one or two days a week. In terms 1 and 2 (first year) we do our best to schedule all the teaching on one day of the week (this has always been the case)."

really appreciate for the effort of trying hard to arrange one day per week for PT as I think PT students are working and they might not be able to make it two days a week

MSc Artificial Intelligence or Data Science regarding employability perspectives?

AI is will be being run for the first time, so we don't know yet! But it has a lot of Deep Learning in it (3 modules on Deep Learning!). If Deep Learning is your thing, do AI! Data Science has good employability prospects and is a more rounded course with more emphasis on data analysis whereas AI it more about the technical details.

Are the internships usually paid? (part of course project instead of thesis)

Hi the majority of internships are usually paid, however this depends on the employer.

Thanks, any idea of the kind of roles?

Starting Data Science teams in companies, startups, banks and retail.

I'm really worried about the days that are taught during the week. I'm working full time and the more concentrated the course during the week the better. Right now this could be a good option for me, other courses doesn't offer a proper full-time course as you do so I'm glad.

That's great to hear do you have any other questions for us?

Is the 2019/2020 full time timetable out yet? How many days a week? And are all modules timing between 9am and 6pm?
I think they will all be between 09:00-18:00, but last year, we had an optional modules in the evening. Timetable isn't out yet.

Are any fee concessions offered if we score good in the first term?

No. But see the video we're just about to post.

Thank you Aidan and thank you team. Also congrats for all that got accepted. See you in June.

How many days per year I should request as study leave?

I don't know... but the term dates are published: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-year - there's face-to-face teaching 10 weeks in two terms.

**Academic year (term dates)**

City, University of London for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years.

Most lectures are video-captured, so it's usually possible to watch them afterwards online.

Are there any matlab courses in MSc AI, I hate matlab :P Want to do in python

I don't know. Email smcsep@city.ac.uk and the programme director will get your message and will answer

Is August the limit date to apply if I'm not wrong.

Hi Pablo, applications to City usually roll on to the end of August. However, popular courses such as MSc Data Science fill their places earlier in the year and hence close applications earlier. So we advise that you apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.
Are there any on campus job offered? Like TA ship etc?

We sometimes have departmental internships where you might work on a research project, but not many.

Hi, what are the past ratios of international students in this course

Quite high! It's about half UK, quarter EU and quarter non-EU.

Of the elective modules, which ones tend to be most popular?

Computer Vision (neural networks to detect objects in images), Data Visualisation and Software Agents (being replaced with "Deep Learning: Optimisation" - the reinforcement learning one)

Is an integrated placement year offered? There is an option for 3 month internship in the information posted, but no info on integrated placement year

There's not integrated placement year. It's only 3-6 month internships. These are linked to your project, so you'd do your MSc project based on your internship. This is really nice, because it usually results in really interesting and applied MSc projects!

Will do, the thing is I have to take the IELTS exam. Or the FCE is enough?

We require you to meet the IELTS requirements found on our website. However, you do not need to have completed IELTS before applying. You can apply for the course without IELTS and notify us that you are taking it at a later date. We will then add IELTS as one of the conditions if we choose to give you a conditional offer.
If you are interested in visiting us in person to speak to the programme director and see our facilities, we will be holding a physical event at our Northampton Square campus on Tuesday 4th June from 5-7pm (BST). You can register for this event here: [https://crm.dataharvesting.com/e/city/gp/city-events/mcsa-2019-pg-events](https://crm.dataharvesting.com/e/city/gp/city-events/mcsa-2019-pg-events).

If you are interested in our MSc Cyber Security course, we will be holding an online event on Thursday 4th April from 4.30-5.30pm (BST). You can sign up for this event here: [https://meetandengage.com/b2b0b4f5](https://meetandengage.com/b2b0b4f5).

**Student CRM - Data Harvesting**

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**CityChat Postgraduate**

Welcome to CityChat, City, University of London’s chat page; where you can chat live to our teams to find out more about postgraduate study with us. Our commitment to academic excellence, focus on business and the professions, and central London location, are just some of the reasons for studying at City. Throughout your application year we will be running chats about specific courses, studying at City, living in London, funding your studies and much more.

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Is City's Data Science program better than QMUL, Exeter, Surrey? What is the selling point of studying in City?

Concerned as it is ranked very low as compared to others

City isn’t particularly highly ranked in terms of undergraduate teaching, but our MSc courses have a good reputation.

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oh dear, I didn’t know that thank you Aathavan!

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No worries, all the best with your application.

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I was disappointed that the PT course didn’t include internships - can we do it if we choose to?

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It’s possible - you can do it you like! It’s simply because most FT students already have a job.

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Who decides the MSc project in the internship? The employer, faculty, or do we propose something ourselves? And how is it evaluated?

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You come up with your own research project proposal about this time of year with your supervisor. If you subsequently get an internship, then you can change your research proposal to one that aligns with your internship. This is decided by all parties - the internship company, the supervisor and you.
If you do an internship (and are full time), you get an extra 3 months to do your MSc project. Deadline for MSc project for FT students is in Oct. Deadline for MSc projects for FT students with internships is Dec. Deadline for PT students' project is Dec.

Hi, regarding tier-4 visa students, how many could move on to tier-2 work visa during the past years, in this course.

I don’t know much about how Visas work, but I imagine that if you’re offered a job at the end and they are willing to sponsor you then you could get a Tier2 visa that way.

If I have settle status should I also pass IELTS?

IELTS is a usually a requirement for those who need a Tier 4 visa and usually isn’t if you don’t.

Hope that was useful.

Thank you for everyone taking the time to answer our questions.

Thanks - a pleasure.

This session has now ended. Thank you for joining us for today’s chat. If you have any questions, please email pgenquiries@city.ac.uk