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 (BST). 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 Slingsby, the Programme Director. Looking forward meeting you and answering your questions.

Hello, my name is Alex and I am TA in Data Science – thank you for joining us today. I look forward to answering your questions.

Hello, my name is Olga and I am a TA in Data Science – thank you for joining us today. I look forward to answering your questions.

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Hi my name is (potential student). Might as well hit the ground running - Are places still available? Believe closing date was 31.08.20 unless class was filled.

There are still places

Hi I would like to know what software tools we will be studying.

Hi, Python, Matlab, Tableau

I’m from London, but study BSc Mathematics at the University of Nottingham which is a very large modern campus full of greenery. What is it like studying in a London University where campuses are a lot more compact and not as open?
Good question! The first term will be online (so you can study from any green space you like)

Good afternoon, I'm applied to the part-time course for Sep 20

Hello

Would we need to have a very good understanding of Python prior to the degree?

DS prep material: https://www.city.ac.uk/postgraduate-applicants-smcse/technical-skills-required-for-citys-msc-in-data-science

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Hi All. Nice to have a session. I have applied for MSc Data Science for this September intake, can I please know whether the term-1 will be blended (online-on-campus) learning for CAS issuance purpose

Mostly online, but we'll have some on-site activities in second term and hope to be able to issue visa by then

Good afternoon all! My name is and I am from India. I hope you are all doing well. I would like to ask when we can expect decision letters for studying at City for this fall? Additionally, has it been decided whether the course will be online or have in person elements in September? Thank you

Please visit this webpage https://www.city.ac.uk/study/coronavirus-info-for-prospective-students which includes FAQs about the current situation.

Coronavirus information for prospective students

Information for prospective students on the impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic on activities at City, University of London.
How many places are there in the a) Part time and b) Full time course?

We don't have separate quotas for FT and PT. 120 places in total

Hello Everyone Hope all are doing good!! I am [Name] from India

Welcome

For the deep learning and computer vision modules. Would someone with a background in economics be able to do well in these subjects?

Sure, it's fine if you are interested in these modules.

Thanks Aidan, can you please elaborate this, does this mean I will be issued CAS in October?

This hasn't been confirmed yet, I think think only from December, because we can't we sure that it's safe to teach on-site in the first term. See https://www.city.ac.uk/study/coronavirus-info-for-prospective-students

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Is course still scheduled to start on 21.09.2020? Based on current thinking When is term 2 scheduled to run from and to?
I believe so. See https://www.city.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-year. Autumn terms starts 4 week later than advertised here (same as the date you gave) but I think spring term will be the same as on website

Academic year (term dates)
City, University of London term dates for forthcoming years.

Is course still scheduled to start on 21.09.2020? Based on current thinking When is term 2 scheduled to run from and to?

Hi, our Spring term is scheduled to take place between 4 January-11 April 2021. Naturally, this may be impacted by the situation with the pandemic but you will be given notice if there are going to be any changes made to this.

Hi, I'm a former Computer Science BSc student @ City. I have a few queries about Data Science. During my Undergrad degree, my grades weren't the best due to difficult circumstances, I still walked away with the degree but a subpar grade. I now wish to go back and do data science masters hopefully 2021/2022. I've been studying Data science, machine learning etc at home and have been collaborating with industry specialists as well as doing online Microcourses. Additionally I have been boosting my extra curricular skills. Will that help increase my chances of admission?

Hi, Experience helps, but we don't usually accept students with less than a 2:1.

Whilst I am specializing in many statistics, I do a lot of R and MATLAB. From what I've read, City is more Python orientated. Is there other recommended resources to learn this other than DataCamp? Thanks for the previous reply, however I will be applying for 2021-22 intake, do you think the first term will still be online?

DS prep material: 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

Hello everyone, I am a MSc Data Science offer holder. I want to ask does the first term will teach online or blended? If I want to start this course in September in London, Do you issue visa for international students in September?
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I believe the university we will announce this soon.

Thank you! So just to confirm, the first semester will be online?

Yes

Hi all - I've an offer to start this September and was wondering - regarding the electives, would there be any scope at all to choose three (from the list offered for Data Science students), or is it absolutely not possible? I'm having some difficulty deciding which 2 of my 3 favourite options I'd want to study more...

It's not possible to choose more than 2 electives (but you may be allowed to access material from other electives, just not be assessed in them).

I have gone through the course structure it is interesting I would like to know that optional subject will in first term or in second term

in second term

Hi I'm considering applying for the part time MSc. I'd be studying alongside a full time job (pending support from my employer!) so I was wondering how timetables on this part time course works please - are the lectures spread across the week or would they be on a single day?

Hi we try our best to timetable things such that it's 1 day a week for PT students (except in second year, second term, where is depends on elective choices)

Are we going to study IBM SPSS, EViews and Stata?
No

Normally how long would it take to hear back on offers/rejections? I ask because I have to make a decision on other offers soon.

Usually 3 or 4 weeks. If longer, please email

How will be able to integrate with the class during the first semester as it would be online

We will run regular online Zoom sessions, Data Bites events, drop-in sessions etc.

Would you be able to share the timetable for the part-time version of the course, please?

Sorry, this is not fixed yet, but almost certainly be just one day a week of lecturers

Have you obtained data camp accounts to do some prep work before course starts?

Yes. Some of you have these already. I will add others soon.

Thank you all for the great questions, please bear with us as we get through them. We intend on answering all of them. Thank you for your patience.

Good day, gentlemen. I would like to ask, can I ask a question about the Master of Engineering program? (Renewable Energy and Power Systems Management (full-time))

This is the wrong chat for that - different department

I have applied for the degree and am yet to hear back. Do you know how long it will take to hear back? I was told last week I should hear back in a couple of weeks. But am keen to get an answer :)

Please email if it’s been more than 3 or 4 weeks

Ok thanks for clarifying re: the electives :)

Could I request you to elaborate on how the part-time differs from full-time?
FT is 1.12 months. PT is 18 months.

Could I request you to elaborate on how the part-time differs from full-time? FT has 4 modules in each of autumn and spring terms. PT has 2 over 2 years

Hi I’m considering applying for the part time MSc - pending support from my employer, I’d be studying alongside a full time job so I was wondering how timetables on the part time course works - would the lectures be spread across a week or would they be within a single day or online?

We try our best to make it a single day

I see. So what would increase my chances?

Unfortunately, we don’t except people who get less than a 2:1, unless they have some other experience that impresses the admissions tutor

Hello sir can you please tell us how will teaching take place for academic year 2020-21

Mostly online. Lectures and practical classes. You will all have access to live lab support.

Hi, I am Thank you for this session. I’d like to ask whether a lot of projects or workshops in MS program. Thanks

Not sure what you mean.

And my second question - from https://www.city.ac.uk/postgraduate-applicants/technical-skills-msc-data-science there is mention of the “preparation courses” for Python/Matlab/Maths. I’d like to just check if this page is up-to-date with regards to whether such sessions will still be taking place & more particularly whether the dates of Mon 7th-Weds 9th are still accurate?

Yes, these sessions will take place as scheduled. Joining details and other info will be posted later.

Hi, this is I’m one of the offer holders. Just wonder apart from python, Matlab and tableau, will learning R on datacamp be useful too?

Yes, it will be useful.
Hello everyone. Hope you all are going well. I am from India. I am going to join MSc in data science this sep. I have many questions. The one at the top is whether it will be a fully online course or a blended course? And if blended den when uni is going to issue cas?

Hi, First term will be online. I believe CAS will be issued from December. See https://www.city.ac.uk/study/coronavirus-info-for-prospective-students

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And my second question - from https://www.city.ac.uk/postgraduate-applicants/technical-skills-msc-data-science there is mention of the "preparation courses" for Python/Matlab/Maths. I'd like to just check if this page is up-to-date with regards to whether such sessions will still be taking place & more particularly whether the dates of Mon 7th-Weds 9th are still accurate?

Yes, that's the plan

How to apply for the Internship?

Not yet. In the second term, if you wish to.

I am predicted a first class in BSc Mathematics with Statistics at the University of Nottingham for my final year (2021-22), is this enough to satisfy the conditions for this course? I have been taking online courses over this summer period in things like Python/Tableau/Machine Learning, does this benefit my application?

Yes. Make sure you tell us what coding experience you have.

can you please provide us with a contact email for the school/course?

Hi, you can contact our Programmes Office via smcsepg@city.ac.uk

When can we expect to receive a decision letter/unconditional offer?

Offers within 3 or 4 weeks of you applying. If you've waited longer, please email
I understand that lectures can be recorded so not much of a problem. What are the expectations regarding tutorials which are more interactive. Also is this going to affect the composition of the assessment - i.e. will it move more to coursework as oppose to exams?

We will use Zoom with break out rooms for tutorials, assessment will move more to courseworks

I understand that lectures can be recorded so not much of a problem. What are the expectations regarding tutorials which are more interactive. Also is this going to affect the composition of the assessment - i.e. will it move more to coursework as oppose to exams?

There will be live tutorials and you’ll have live access to lecturers and Ahmad, Olga and Alex during theses. Assessments will be more coursework based this year

will courses still be online for 2021-22?

Hi, the first term will almost definitely be delivered fully online. We intend on offering a more blended approach for the second term, but this is subject to government guidance.

Do the core modules prepare you to study any of the optional modules or do some modules require a more quantitative background before hand?

Optional module don’t especially build on the core module, but Deep Learning will have additional prerequisites this year

Perfect thanks Alex

Do course materials include licenses for the applications we’ll be using e.g. Tableau?

Yes. All the software is either free or you’ll get a licence

Are prep sessions still scheduled to run for early September?

Yes, we will run prep sessions in early September

Do the core modules prepare you to study any of the optional modules or do some modules require a more quantitative background before hand?

Yes, core modules in term 1 will definitely prepare you to some electives in term 2 (e.g. Deep Reinforcement Learning, Computer Vision).
Hi all, my name is Chris and I work in the Marketing team. I'll be here for the last 30 mins of the chat to help answer your questions.

Hi, my name is ______. Thank you for taking the time out to have a live chat. Please could you discuss the workload of a PT student and the number of days per week where lectures take place? I am considering a PT masters as well as working.

Many PT student do this. We try our best to schedule lectures on 1 day a week for PT students.

Can you confirm which of the modules have exams as assessments?

All the core modules will be coursework only this year. Some elective may have exams.

I've been studying MicroDegrees in Data Science provided by universities in the US and some in the UK which offer certificates upon completion. Would that help with my admissions chances? I'm also in the process of developing projects to help improve my portfolio.

We'll take into account anything relevant, but if you meet the entry requirements, then you'll probably get a place.

For FT, would the lectures be spread across a week?

Typically around three days a week.

For FT, would the lectures be spread across a week?

Yes, usually 3 days of lectures/labs.

City, University of London: Campus tour

https://youtu.be/ylfFzXWXrg
Roughly what % of full time students get an internship. The experience of the internship will be important in the job market.

Hi, it’s hard to say what % of students get an internship as companies look for the best students to recruit. We will help you as much as possible with your CV, Cover Letter etc.

Will there be opportunities to take the internship route or will the coronavirus situation potentially make this a bit difficult.

Yes, but we don’t know how many companies will be offering them. Hopefully they will.

What assistance is provided with job search while studying for your degree? Not only when you finish, but while studying part time?

You can browse graduate job opportunities or find part-time temporary work or an internship and advertise vacancies.
We have various annual career fairs, Employability Skills Programme and other career-related events.
We have various resources that you can access.

What assistance is provided with job search while studying for your degree? Not only when you finish, but while studying part time?

The university has a careers service and companies come and give talks and you can connect with them. Some people get jobs through internships.

For Internship to whom we have to reach?

Hi, our Professional Liaison Unit (PLU) is a bespoke careers service that will be able to assist in helping you secure internships. More info here: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/schools/mathematics-computer-science-engineering/placements-and-internships

Placements and internships
Information about internships and placements with City, University of London’s Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering

Hi, Aldan. I heard this course will offer students some internship from 3-6 months. Is this intern only competitive, can most people get internships?
Hi, I am _______ my question is - if the CAS will be issued in December will there be arrangements for accommodation accordingly too?

I don’t know about accommodation arrangements, but I don’t think that the university has much. This is often the case in Central London.

Are the career talks usually held in sem2?

Find out more about the different events the Careers service run throughout the academic year here: [https://www.city.ac.uk/careers/city-opportunities/events](https://www.city.ac.uk/careers/city-opportunities/events)

Roughly what % of full time students get an internship. The experience of the internship will be important in the job market. Last year, it was around a quarter.

How many applications do you receive per place?

Around 8!

Hi, my name is _______ I am interested in applying for the PT Data Science programme. Do you offer the option to study everything online for the second term? Do you plan to offer internships for the PT programme as well?

We don’t usually offer internships for PT students (usually they are working PT), but it’s not impossible. Term 2 will be mostly online.

Is there any advice on what to write on personal statements when applying for this course for 2021-22?

Say why you want to do the course, what experience you have that’s relevant and what aspects of the programme excite you the most.

If I elect and am accepted on full time basis, what is the latest that I can change to part-time?
January

Aidan - hopefully last question from me. You say "Optional module don’t especially build on the core module, but Deep Learning will have additional prerequisites this year" - could you elaborate on these prerequisites? For example for the Advanced DB elective I know has been said in a previous chat that it more for those with solid SQL already. So I'm just wondering what the requirements for the Deep Learning might be if they're not directly related to the Core Modules. I guess more generally my question is - should we contact the Programme Office for more detail on each module or is this given generally once we accept the offer (like a course handbook of sorts)?

You choose your elective in Dec and will have all the information then. Deep learning is a more technical than the other modules and is shared with the MSc in AI. It's to ensure people cope with the material.

Can I request you to identify the electives with exams?

I don't have the information to hand. Please email. But I don't think it's any/many this year.

Thank you everyone for answering all my queries.

You're welcome!

Aidan (or Chris if you can answer this), I've already contacted smcsepp@city.ac.uk last week. I was told I should get a response in a couple of weeks. It will be 4 weeks since the application on Tuesday. Is there any way to escalate if I'm not getting a definitive answer from emailing smcsepp@city.ac.uk? I'm interested in City but don't want to lose out on the other offers I have.

Email them again - they tell me people who contact to say they need answers quickly.

How many admissions tutors are there? Do they have contact details?

4 but you can't contact them directly. Contact the via the admissions pg email address.

Is there a word or page limit for the personal statement. I could not find much information on this as the application process allowed for 5000 characters per question?

Not formally, but most are less than 2 pages.

The course looks great but it is a significant commitment both in time and finance. Is it possible to just do the certificate and then move to the diploma at a later date and then onto the Masters further down the line?
You can exit early with a PG diploma/certificate. I don't think you can then come back and complete the MSc. Please email and we’ll try to find out

Some other universities offer a Data analytics degree. Do you consider data analytics different to data science?

Yes, Data analytics tends to focus on getting answers from data. In Data Science you also learn about technical details of the analysis

I mean does data analysis and data science mean different things to you?

Yes (see answer above)

I have an employment reference, however I don’t have it in a document form and my referee has attached his reference to applications for other universities. Why don’t you allow the referee to attach their reference? Will it help my application to get a reference? I’m a bit concerned given there are 8 applications per space!

It’s only important if they have some specific evidence of skills that are not apparent from your degrees

Can you give us more details on each module.

See the information online. Email (or ask here) if you have specific questions about any.

Some other universities offer a Data analytics degree. Do you consider data analytics different to data science?

And different approaches to doing analysis

Hey, thank you for taking the time to do this, would this course be suitable for those who have a background in the social sciences-psychology to be specific.

Only if you have adequate knowledge and experience of maths and coding - see advice at https://www.city.ac.uk/postgraduate-applicants-smcse/technical-skills-required-for-citys-msc-in-data-science

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Technical skills required for City’s MSc in Data Science

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CITY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
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Can you give us more details on each module.

Here is the link to the course page: [https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/data-science-msc](https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/data-science-msc). If you scroll down to the modules section, you will find more details about the core modules.

**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.

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**Student:**

Hi I want to understand, There is theory and practical for all technical subjects..... how will the online study become practical?

**Response:**

We plan recorded lectures (but some may be live streamed), Q&A seminar and then live lab sessions, where you'll have live access to lectures and teaching staff.

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**Student:**

Hi, I have a couple of questions that i'd like to ask: are modules language specific? Could you per say use Python instead of Matlab to do the same job / piece of coursework?

**Response:**

It depends on the module. Some allow any language, some it's more specific.

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**Student:**

Hi, I have a couple of questions that i'd like to ask: are modules language specific? Could you per say use Python instead of Matlab to do the same job / piece of coursework?

**Response:**

Yes, for some modules you can choose a language (esp. electives)

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**Student:**

Hi, I have a couple of questions that i'd like to ask: are modules language specific? Could you per say use Python instead of Matlab to do the same job / piece of coursework?

**Response:**

e.g. Deep Reinforcement Learning

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**Student:**

I E-Mailed the admissions team a a few weeks ago. they said they sometimes accept those with self study experience etc. So that hopefully gives me a chance.

**Response:**

Yes, if you been the entry requirements, then we sometimes take account is self-declare self study. But it's important that you are prepared for the technical content, or you'll fall behind.

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**Student:**

There are 10 minutes left of this chat session. Please post any further questions now.
Great, thanks for your replies.

A pleasure. Thanks for your interest. Hope it is useful.

Thanks for all the answers it's been really helpful everyone!

Thanks!

Can you give a hint as to when the time-tables for the course (part-time) will be made available?

I think next month

Hi everyone, am I right? My question is, what is the specific minimum computer/laptop properties needed for the course?

The Data Science students will be able to log in to PCs with GPUs with Remote Desktop in campus. Although having a laptop with GPU would be beneficial for you.

Thank you for your replies and time.

No problem at all. All the best!

What does City offer that other universities don't? And are the industry links proving challenging during the pandemic?

We have many links with companies and you'll get talks from them that show have Data Science is applied in the commercial world. Job opens may be a bit more uncertainty in the current uncertain climate. City's DS course is quite applied and is taught by leaders in their fields.

Are there any math check box lists that we can compare our background to for the deep learning module? The prerequisites on the web page is not very clear.

Linear Algebra, Probability & Statistics, Machine Learning basics. We will cover these topics in preparatory sessions in September.
We don’t have details yet. But there are only in place to ensure that you’re able to succeed.

There are 5 minutes left of this chat session. Please post any further questions now.

Did I read in one of your answers above that the part time degree takes 18 months to complete?

Yes. The dissertation is Jul-Oct for FT and Jul-Dec for PT.

Will we be using SQL?

Only for some electives and a bit in Big Data module.

Are there limited seats for the preparatory sessions?

No.

Do we need to sign up in advance?

No.

Thank you so much for your time. All the best!

Pleasure.
Just a note to say that a transcript of this chat will be made available on the City website next week. You should be able to find it at the bottom of this page under the ‘Past Events’ accordion: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/visit-us/online-events

I have an admission related Query, Once I accept the offer.... will I be provided a CAS letter to apply for VISA .... and then come to UK as the University allows us for on campus classes

I believe CAS will only be offered in Dec, but this is not confirmed yet

Thanks Aathavan.

Thank you for joining us, all the best for the future.

What programming languages and BI tools are used in this course?

Python, Matlab, Tableau

Thank you Alex

thanks

Thank you Olga

Thank you all

On average, or a recommendation from the university, how many hours per week should PT students spend towards their studies? I understand it varies person to person, but an average/recommendation would be informative.
10 hours per module per week. So 40 hours for FT and 20 hours for PT. But of course is depends

How many of the 120 places have been filled?

Not sure, I think around 80

A bit of a difficult question but if the course was a cake, how would you divide it up i.e. 20% stats, 20% programming etc

It’s a mixture of linear algebra, statistics (and prob), and a bit of tensor arithmetic.

Is the internship available for Part time students?

Not usually, but it's possible to do

Thank you all for answering our questions!!

No problem at all. All the best.

A bit of a difficult question but if the course was a cake, how would you divide it up i.e. 20% stats, 20% programming etc

and of course programming

With Cloud computing; would AWS be used?

Not sure - please email and I'll check

My goal is to become a AI Integrator ..... will there be electives for AI

No, the only module shared with the AI MSc is the Deep Learning elective.

Thanks all, in particular Aathavan, Aidan, Olga, Alex and Chris - very informative ...

Thank you all for taking the time to answer our questions!
We use international comparison tables (such as Warwick university’s: http://warwick.ac.uk/study/international/admissions/entry-requirements/)

We’re sorry, but the page you requested could not be found
There is no page at this address: /study/international/admissions/entry-requirements

With Cloud computing, would AWS be used?
You can use AWS if you want alongside with other online platforms (e.g. Colab, Google Cloud, paperspace.com). But it’s optional for core modules.

Thanks All! Aidan could I get your Email please

Best email smcsep@g.city.ac.uk

Thank you guys … it was really an informative session…. will there be another soon…. I will keep my Question ready

It is unlikely that we will have another online session before the September start, but if you do have further questions, please contact us via smcsep@g.city.ac.uk

Thank you Alex & Aidan

Thank you guys … it was really an informative session…. will there be another soon…. I will keep my Question ready
I think this is the last one. But we have a Discord server that some of you are on for students who’ve accepted their offer. Also, feel free to email.

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

Thank you Alex & Aidan

Pleasure