Studying BSc Actuarial Science courses at Cass

This Online Chat session is for prospective students interested in studying our new courses BSc Data Analytics and Actuarial Science and BSc Finance with Actuarial Science. The session will be run by current students and academic staff, giving you the opportunity to ask questions about your the new courses and life at as a Cass student, societies and clubs, extra-curricular activities, free language classes, placement & study abroad and lots more. As this is a typed chat group session, you will be able to see the answers to your questions by other prospective students.

Hi everyone! Welcome to our Actuarial Science Online Chat! Today’s session is for prospective students interested in:

- BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science (G322 and G321)
- BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science with foundation year (G320)
- BSc (Hons) Data Analytics and Actuarial Science (G361)
- BSc (Hons) Finance with Actuarial Science (G3N3)

We are looking forward to answering your questions! ;)

Some of you will have already received offers whilst many of you will still be waiting for a decision on your application. Please be reassured that it’d totally normal to still be waiting on a decision at this time (although we appreciate how nerve wracking the wait can be!).

If you applied by 15 January then we will aim to get a decision onto UCAS Track by 31 March (hopefully it will not take that long!), and if you applied after 15 January then we will aim to get a decision onto UCAS Track by 30 June (hopefully much earlier!).

City, University of London: Sidharth Deepchand, BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science

https://youtu.be/ejRlVq2_0zs

Hi, when will the list of available classes for Fall 2020 be released?

Hi Emma, can you please clarify if your question is about electives, timetable or something else? Timetable is announced late August/early September and there are no electives in the first year.

My daughter has received offer for Actuarial science from Cass. From the students I want to know whether the course is enjoyable. I keep reading online that it is a difficult course
Hi,
Congratulations for getting the offer. The course is really enjoyable. It is a bit difficult, but it can be managed easily if you organise and plan your stuff well.

Hi I am Nitya. What is the English language proficiency requirement for international students for acceptance?

Hi Nitya, many thanks for you message. Please see the list below:
- IELTS 6.5 overall with 6.0 minimum in each module
- TOEFL: 99 overall (25 reading, 26 writing, 23 listening, 26 speaking)
- Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic: 58 overall with minimum 50 in each component
- IGCSE: English as a First Language (Syllabus 0500 & 0522) or English as Second Language (Syllabus 0510 & 0511) at Grade B or above
- International Baccalaureate: Grade 5 at Higher or Standard level
- Trinity College (Integrated Skills): ISE III – pass in each area
- INTO City Pre-sessional English: 6.5 overall with no less than 6.0 in any sub test (NB. Must be the 6 or 8 week Cass-specific course)
- Cambridge English Advanced (also known as Certificate in Advanced English): Grade C (180-192) at CEFR Level C1
- Cambridge English Proficiency (also known as Certificate of Proficiency in English): Grade C (200-212) at CEFR Level C2
- Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE): English Language Examination grade 4 or above

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Hello, congratulations on the offer. It is a challenging but rewarding course! It allows you to test your limits and work in high pressure, just like a real job would.

I am applying as an international student, as part of a study abroad program. On the web page where all the available classes are listed, it says that there will be some changes to what classes will be offered.

Hi Emma, as an incoming student you can contact our Study Abroad (Incoming Students) Coordinators directly: cass-ugincoming@city.ac.uk

How often are lectures and classes or other sessions?

Hi Harshul,
All modules have different contact hours. But in the first year, you could expect to have Lectures all days of the week (approximately 20 hours a week). A few modules have exercise classes too.

At Cass, can you get overall exemptions or subject by subject only?

You get both. Each subject you can gain an exemption by your exam performance and upon graduation we also check your actuarial average and if it is above 65% you can gain all the exemptions by accreditation.
Hi, what would be the recommended IB score for the Data Analytics course? Are there any subjects that you would recommend taking?

Hi Sven, we require IB with 35 overall (6 at HL Maths) and 5 minimum in all other subjects.

What is the clearing process?

Hi Ajay, many thanks for your question. Clearing process is when universities have some available spaces after A level release. Some universities can be quite flexible on requirements, however Cass Business School does not reduce Actuarial Science criteria dramatically.

Thanks. Since I will graduate in 2021, how does the 6 at HL Maths translate to the new curriculum?

As soon as IB authorities update us on their curriculum, we will be able to provide clearer information.

Will there be another open or visit day for the students who for an offer..?

Hi,
Yes. There will be an open day for students with offers. But the dates for it have not been released yet. It should be around February 2020.

Hi, is there an offer holders day to come and visit?

Hello Veda, this information has not be released yet but it will be released at the end of this month, keep an eye on our website! It is expected to be in February.

Can we get an unconditional offer from CASS for Actuarial Science?

Ajay, if you have all your qualifications with certificates including up to date English language test and meet our criteria, we are able to offer unconditionally. Of course, if there are no objections from Visa Compliance Team.
Will there be another open or visit day for the students who for an offer..?

Hi Ramesh, the nearest Open Day is scheduled for 27th June 2020. However, City University organises campus tours every Tuesday and Thursday. Book your slot here: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/visit-us/campus-tours

Campus tours

A campus tour led by a current student is a great way to see City, University of London. Tours run on Tuesdays at 11:00.

In the second year, which elective modules would you say are the most enjoyable?

In the second year, I had opted for Financial Economics and Alternative Investment Management. Both of them were really interesting. Financial Economics also offered us half an exemption. But I feel that the choice of electives is always subjective. The University does allow you to attend all the electives for the first week and then decide as to which one you wish to take.

In the second year, which elective modules would you say are the most enjoyable?

Hello Harshul, in the second year I chose to do Financial Economics (Exemption) and Derivatives, Trading and Hedging. Both were very enjoyable as I like finance but it really depends on you personality.

How much (if any) computer science will be involved in the Data Analytics course?

It depends on what you class as computer science. We will not be covering anything about computer architecture or system building. Instead we will be looking at the software side i.e. coding and using specialist software to solve problems.

City, University of London: Cass Business School tour

https://youtu.be/AbTS7pSvlyU
“In order to qualify as an actuary, you will be required to pass the professional examinations of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. Specific modules in all three years of the BSc Actuarial Science degree give you the opportunity to earn exemptions from six of the seven core principles stage subjects.” Are all the required modules for exemptions part of the core modules in each year, or are there specific elective modules which must be taken in order to acquire the opportunity for all possible exemptions?

For the main actuarial science degree most of the exemption modules are core. However, you will need to select the correct electives to get exemptions in CBI and CM2. We assume that most students will be aiming to gain the exemptions so the timetable is designed to ensure this and you will be clearly advised as to which electives are required.

For the Data Analytics degree more of the exemption subjects are electives rather than core.

Hi, can I know what are the electives that I should to choose in order to obtain maximum exemptions? Will I be guided through the process?

To gain the full set of exemptions you will need to take the Financial Reporting and Financial Economics modules in the second year and Advanced Financial Economics in the third year. The elective choices are clearly explained in the course handbook.

Alright. Thank you very much. Also, I noticed that for Masters in Actuarial Management, it can be done part time in the course of two years. Let’s say I’m doing my BSc in Actuarial Science and I’m doing the course with 1 year placement, is it possible for me to proceed with the part time Actuarial Management course while doing the placement?

The Actuarial Management is an MSc so can only be taken after graduating so you cannot study it while being on placement.

By when you have to pay for the accommodation?

Ramesh, yes, you have to pay for accommodation. Have a look at this link which gives you a view on expenses: [https://www.cass.city.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-life/cost-of-living](https://www.cass.city.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-life/cost-of-living)

**Cost of living | Cass Business School**

As a student we understand the cost of living can be hard, please see the initiatives in place to help you prepare for this at Cass Business School.

Do the students learn accounting during the course like P&L and balance sheet preparation etc.,?
Hello Ramesh, you only do accounting if you choose the Financial Reporting elective in the second year. This module is also an exemption. I found this module really interesting and also quite easy!

If a student has done Maths only and not further maths at A level, is there any maths topic that they fall short of?

We assume that students have not taken Further Maths so all topics covered in further maths are taught from first principles on the course. Obviously those who have taken further maths will be at an advantage as they have seen the material before but the same can be said for students who have taken A-level economics.

Hi Elena, I was hoping to know the dates by when they need to pay for the accommodation for it to be guaranteed?

Please contact our Accommodation Team directly:
https://www.city.ac.uk/accommodation/undergraduate

Undergraduate student accommodation
City, University of London undergraduate students can apply for a place in our modern halls of residence or get help with finding private accommodation in London.

May I also know about the usual grades for A Levels that city is offering for Actuarial Science right now?

Hi Arielle,
Please have a look at this link for the requirement:
https://www.cass.city.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/actuarial-science
Please check the application tab once you reach the website.

Actuarial Science BSc | Cass Business School
The BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Science will give you knowledge and experience on stochastic models, finance and financial reporting, business and, naturally, actuarial science itself.

May I also know about the usual grades for A Levels that city is offering for Actuarial Science right now?

Hi Arielle, we require A levels: A in Maths (or Further Maths) and AA in two other subject excluding General Studies, Critical Thinking or a native language.
If you would like to chat with any of our student ambassadors, you can do so via our new peer-to-peer platform! Please visit [www.city.ac.uk/ask-a-student](http://www.city.ac.uk/ask-a-student) to start chatting to our students now.

**Ask a student**

Speak with one of our current students and find out more about what it is like to study at City.

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Is there any specific Further maths topics you should go over if you have not studied Further maths?

In the first year the lecturers teach as if there was no background knowledge of the subject. Therefore I don't think it is necessary to go over any Further Maths topics.

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Can you join for Actuarial 3 year course and later opt in for 'with placement'?

As an international student you must apply for the course with a placement year as it will be a part of your Tier 4 Visa conditions. Further information can be provided by my colleagues: Mohammed Rahman, Eileen Rahilly and Jenny Bryant.

Work Placement & internship Coordinators

+44 (0)20 7040 3359 / 8663 / 8573

Cass-up-placements@city.ac.uk

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How beneficial would you say is the professional placement? And do many give job offers after graduation?
The professional placement is very beneficial for students as it gains them work experience, earns them money and they can see the theory they are studying being applied in the real world. It is quite common for companies to offer jobs at the end (based on the student achieving a 2:1 or first) as many companies see the placement as a 9 month interview. Also, some placements allow students to develop ideas for their third year project.

For a UK student?

For UK student is fine if you like to add a professional placement during 1 or 2 year. Please contact my colleagues from the contacts above.

Hey! I’d like to know the tuition fees for international students. Also, will there be an increment of fees each year?

Hi Tan, for International Applicants the fee for this course will be £19,000 for the first year of study, with a 2% increase in fees for each subsequent year.

This is extraordinary calling

https://youtu.be/U2eX9nF7rmE

Thank you everyone for your questions! We hope that you found the session useful. We will be emailing a copy of this chat transcript to all of you in the next couple of weeks so that you can read through the questions again, and find links and useful contacts.

If you do think of any other questions please do contact our team at cassug@city.ac.uk and we'll be happy to help!