

August 2019

Dear incoming MSc Operations Research & Analytics Student,

My name is Gregory Sorkin, and from the start of September I will be the Programme Director for the MSc in Operations Research & Analytics at the London School of Economics and Political Science. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to our MSc and to the Mathematics Department; we are all very much looking forward to meeting you. Please find below and attached some preliminary information on courses in the 2019/20 academic session and advice on what is required of you when you arrive at LSE. This information can also be found on our website (details below).

### ***Welcome Activities***

There will be a series of Welcome activities organised by the School in September. The most up-to-date information will be posted on the New Arrivals page of the Mathematics Department's website at: [http://www.lse.ac.uk/maths/Courses/Offer\\_Holders.aspx](http://www.lse.ac.uk/maths/Courses/Offer_Holders.aspx), and the corresponding School website will provide essential information about what to expect from your first few weeks at the LSE: [www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/yourFirstWeeks/home.aspx](http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/yourFirstWeeks/home.aspx).

However, some important dates and times are already known. You are expected to **attend all these meetings!**

- **School Welcome Presentation**  
**Tuesday 24 September 12.30-14.00, Peacock Theatre**  
The School Welcome Presentation for all new Graduate Students will be on Tuesday 24 September, 12.30–14.00, in the Peacock Theatre. See the New Arrivals webpage for information on which sessions you are supposed to attend: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/your-first-weeks/welcome-presentations>
- **Mathematics Department MSc OR&A Orientation Meeting**  
**Monday 23 September 14.00-16.00, PAR 1.02**  
The Mathematics Department is holding its Orientation Meeting for new MSc in Operational Research and Analytic students on Monday 23 September, 14.00–16.00 in room PAR 1.02 (Parish Hall, Portugal Street). This meeting, which I will be running, will give you all kinds of information about your degree, so please be there at 14.00!
- **Mathematics Departmental Welcome Reception**  
**Wednesday 25 September, 13.30-15.30, Kinta Alley, 32L**  
A departmental MSc Welcome Reception will take place on Wednesday 25 September, 13.30–15.30 in the “Kinta Alley” in the basement of 32L Lincoln’s Inn Field building. This is a good opportunity to mix with your fellow students, including those on other Mathematics MSc degrees, meet the faculty members, and ask further questions you may have after the orientation meeting.
- **Registration**  
**Thursday 26 September, 15.00-15.30, Hong Kong Theatre**  
School registration for MSc in Operations Research & Analytic students will take place on Thursday 26 September, 15.00 in the Hong Kong Theatre (Clement House building). More information on the registration process will also be available on the [New Arrivals](#) webpage.

- **Academic Mentor Meetings**

**Wednesday 25 September – Friday 27 September**

You will be assigned an [Academic Mentor](#). The first meeting with your Mentor will take place between Wednesday 25 September and Friday 27 September. The exact times and places of those meetings will be announced during the Departmental Orientation Meeting on 24 September. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to discuss your course options.

### **Teaching**

Lectures start in **week 1**, which is the week beginning **Monday 30 September**. Seminars and classes will start in week 2 or 3, depending on the course.

### **Academic preparation**

If you have forgotten linear algebra it would be helpful to refresh it, as it plays a major role in the field of OR and in several key courses. There are many good textbooks to choose from; one taking a relatively concrete approach to the topic is Linear Algebra by Martin Anthony and Michele Harvey.

If you would like to gain some experience of computer programming before you arrive, you could learn the language R, which you will use in ST447 Data Analysis and Statistical Methods. Once you learn any language it is easy to learn others, and programming will be useful in your career. Programming will also give you a sense of what computers can and cannot do, that will be useful in all algorithmic courses. You may find the following useful as a starting point: [Introductory Statistics with R](#) by Peter Dalgaard, and the [Coursera course](#).

### **Pre-sessional Introductory Java course**

In addition, there is a pre-sessional *introductory course in Java* taking place from Wednesday 25 to Friday 27 September, 11.00-13.00. This course may be of interest if you wish to take either '[MA407](#) Algorithms and Computation' or '[MA421](#) Advanced Algorithms' as one of your electives listed in the programme regulations, as you will need basic knowledge of Java. If you wish to attend, please contact the MSc Programmes Manager, by **12 September, 16.00** as there are limited places available. See contact details below. The [IT Department](#) also has Java training which you can do in your own time.

### **Course Options**

You may be interested in considering your module choices in advance. A copy of the *Degree Regulations* for 2019/20 is attached.

**Course Guides** for the different courses can be found by clicking on the links in the regulations page at: [www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm)

Please note that updated course guides for 2019/20 will be published sometime in August.

Lots more information about course options will be given at the Departmental OR&A Welcome meeting. There are also short videos available to view for some of the Mathematics courses, on the [Mathematics Moodle](#) page. You can login as a "Guest" with password "options". Please note that optional courses from other departments may require previous knowledge of particular areas. This may be indicated on the course guides, or their departmental website. In any case, we will advise you on these matters after you arrive, and some departments will give presentations about their modules. You can start to apply for your optional elective courses after you register via LSE's online [Graduate Course Choice](#) System from 10.00am on Friday 27 September.

For an indication which courses are taught in which term, please see the attached **Provisional Lectures Timetable**.

### Contact with other new students

We have created a [Facebook Group](#) that you can use to connect with other new students in the MSc in Operations Research & Analytics programme before you arrive. Please see the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/875482079477392/#>

### Student Hub

The [Student Hub](#) is LSE's app, designed to help you navigate your day-to-day life at LSE. You can download the Student Hub from 15 August to start connecting with your department and course mates, and get information to help you familiarise yourself with everything that LSE has to offer. Download the Student Hub app on iOS or Android, or access the web app at <https://studenthub.lse.ac.uk/> (again, from 15/8/19)

All the information contained within this pack, along with all the important dates that you should be aware of will be made available on our Departmental website over the coming weeks at: [http://www.lse.ac.uk/maths/Courses/Offer\\_Holders.aspx](http://www.lse.ac.uk/maths/Courses/Offer_Holders.aspx)

This information will also be available on the Student Hub.

Please note queries relating to conditions of your offer, CAS numbers, visas, submission of transcripts, IELTS and any other required documentation should be made directly to [Graduate Admissions](#). Information can also be found in the Graduate Admissions [offer pack](#).

Finally, if you have other questions, please contact:

Rebecca Batey: MSc Programmes Manager, Department of Mathematics  
Email: [r.batey@lse.ac.uk](mailto:r.batey@lse.ac.uk)

Once again, we are looking forward to meeting you in September.

Best wishes

Professor Gregory Sorkin  
Programme Director for MSc in Operations Research & Analytics  
Department of Mathematics  
London School of Economics and Political Science

### Documents enclosed:

MSc in Operations Research & Analytics Degree Regulations  
Provisional Lectures Timetable  
Map of LSE

*Please note this email is being sent to all those who, according to our records, hold a conditional or unconditional offer for this programme. This email in itself does not constitute an offer. If you have any queries about your offer please contact the [Graduate Admissions Office](#)*