



July 2016

Dear Student

My name is Peter Allen and I am the Programme Director for the MSc in Applicable Mathematics 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 very much looking forward to meeting you in September. Please find attached some preliminary materials that will give you some information on courses in the 2016/17 academic session and advice on what is required of you when you arrive at the LSE. This information can also be found on our website (details below).

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/MSc_AM.aspx

and the corresponding LSE website:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/yourFirstWeeks/home.aspx>

However, some important dates and times are already known:

School Registration

School registration for MSc in Applicable Mathematics students will take place on **Tuesday 20 September**, 15.30-16.00 in the **Hong Kong Theatre** (Clement House). More information on the registration process will also be available on our New Arrivals webpage.

School Welcome Presentation

School Welcome Presentation for all new Graduate Students will be on **Tuesday 20 September 13.00-14.30**, in the **Peacock Theatre**. See the New Arrivals webpage for information on which sessions you are supposed to attend:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/yourFirstWeeks/home.aspx>

Pre-sessional course on Java

The Mathematics Department is offering a ***Pre-sessional course on Java*** programming on **Wednesday 21 September** to **Friday 23 September**, from 11.00-13:00. The pre-sessional course is intended for students that do not have, or have limited, Java programming experience, but all students are welcome to attend.

Mathematics Departmental Welcome Meeting and Reception

The Mathematics Department is holding its Welcome Meeting and Reception for MSc students on **Wednesday 21 September at 15.00**. A formal invitation to this is also included in this mailing.



Academic Advisor Meetings

On **Thursday 22 September to Friday 23 September** you will have a meeting with your Academic Advisor. The exact times and places of those meetings will be announced during the Departmental Welcome Meeting.

Teaching

Lectures start the week beginning **Monday 26 September**. Seminars will begin the following week **Monday 3 October**.

Academic preparation

Some of you have requested guidance on how to prepare for the start of the programme. We put this question to our current students. Their suggestions are outlined below.

- This is a degree in mathematics, so the lecturers will expect you to have a good background in mathematical methods and some understanding of the logical structure of a mathematical “proof” and related aspects of abstract mathematics. If you are unsure about your background, or if you just want to refresh certain parts, have a look at the attached *Preparatory Reading List*.
- If you are not familiar with the programming language Java, and do not have any programming experience, you will be required to take the compulsory course *MA407: Algorithms and Computation*, in which Java is used extensively. The best thing you can do over the summer is to learn the basics of this language, or brush up on it if you have already studied it. An introduction to programming in Java is given in a series of pre-sessional classes and continued during the course, but it is necessarily very rapid. Any introductory text on Java should suffice as preparation, but specific recommendations and sample problems provided by the MA407 lecturer can be found in the attached *Notice Regarding MA407 and MA421* document.
- If you are familiar with Java or you have some programming experience, please consult the attached *Notice Regarding MA407 and MA421* for advice about the choice between *MA407: Algorithms and Computation* and *MA421: Advanced Algorithms*, or the possibility of taking both courses.
- If you want to start reading some new material, suggested texts for some courses can be found in the attached *Preparatory Reading List*. None of this is compulsory.

Course Options

- You may be interested in considering your module choices in advance. A copy of the *Degree Regulations* is attached; you can find information about courses in the School’s Course Guides.



- There are also short videos available to view for some of the Mathematics courses. The videos can be found on the Mathematics Moodle page at the following link: <https://moodle.lse.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=5330> and you can login as a “Guest”. You will need to enter the following password:- *Options*
- Please also note that optional modules in 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. For an indication of when courses take place, please see the attached provisional *Timetable Outline*.

If you have any further questions for us, please contact:

Rebecca Batey: MSc Programme Manager, Mathematics Department

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Telephone: (+44) - (0)20 - 7955 7925.

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

Best wishes,

Peter Allen
Programme Director for MSc in Applicable Mathematics
Mathematics Department

Documents enclosed:

Preparatory Reading List

Notice regarding MA407 and MA421 MSc in Applicable Mathematics

Degree Regulations

Mathematics Course Guides

Provisional Lectures Timetable

Invitation to the Departmental Welcome and Reception



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