



Mathematics

4 September 2020

Dear Student,

My name is Gregory Sorkin, and I am 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 looking forward to meeting you, particularly during this extraordinary year.

Please find below some preliminary information and advice on what is required of you when you join the LSE. This information will also be added to our website. All times below are London time (BST).

Online registration

Online registration has already started and you will receive an email from the Registry team in Student Services inviting you to register for the degree.

At the end of the online registration process, you will be directed to activate your student IT account and setup your LSE email account. Once you have completed online registration and setup your accounts, you will have full access to all online teaching and learning resources.

Tuesday 22 September

**On-campus registration in the Student Services Centre
09.00-10.00 (*surnames A-M*) and 10.00-11.00 (*N-Z*)**

Note that you must do this as well as the online registration. This is where your official documents, including passport and visa, will be checked. Full details about registration can be found at the following link: <https://welcome.lse.ac.uk/get-lse-ready/registration>

Monday 21 September

14.00–15.00 Departmental Welcome Talk, Q&A (zoom)

The Department will hold its official Welcome Meeting for all MSc in Operations Research & Analytics students at 14.00 (BST) by zoom. This will be an introduction to the MSc by the Programme Director, Professor Gregory Sorkin (me), followed by a Q&A session.

15.00–15.45 Meeting your Cohort (zoom)

At the end of the departmental welcome talk and Q&A session you will have the opportunity to meet and chat to your fellow students. This will be a chance to make connections and find out about the other students on your programme.

Wednesday 23 September

**13.00–15.00 On-campus Social Activity
Treasure Hunt, details to follow.**

Wednesday - Friday 23-25 September all 13.00–15.00

Live Online Pre-sessional Introductory Java course

This is an online, 3-day “pre-sessional” introductory course in Java taking place live on Moodle and will be available on the MA407 Moodle page from 23 September. The course is optional, but may be of interest to you if you have no programming background, and may be essential if you wish to take either [MA407](#) (Algorithms and Computation) or [MA421](#) (Advanced Algorithms) as an elective: both of these courses require basic knowledge of Java, as covered in this introductory course. (Please be sure to activate your LSE IT account when you register online for the degree programme and also log on to Moodle to activate the account.)

Teaching

Lectures start in week 1, which is the week beginning Monday 28th September. All lectures will be recorded and made available on Moodle. Seminars and classes will start in week 2 or 3, depending on the course.

MSc Operations Research & Analytics courses

The degree regulations for 2020/1 listing the MSc’s compulsory and optional courses can be found [here](#). More detailed graduate course guides, which also include reading lists, can be found on the School [calendar](#).

Choosing Course Options

**You will be assigned to an Academic Mentor who will discuss your course choice options with you in more detail and offer guidance. The schedule for your first meeting with your Academic Mentor will take place during welcome week and further details will be announced at the departmental welcome meeting. You will be able to select your courses on LSE For You starting from 2pm on Thursday 24 September until 5pm on Monday 12 October
https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/services/course-choice/course-selection?from_serp=1**

More information about course options and the selection process will be given at the Departmental OR&A Welcome meeting. There will be short videos available to view for some of the Mathematics courses, on the [Mathematics MSc Moodle](#) page. 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.

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](#).

Online Pre-sessional Eden & LSE Life

This course is designed to help you get ready to join us at the LSE. Full details can be found on the LSE Life page [here](#)

Facebook Group

A MSc Operations Research & Analytics 2020/1 Facebook [group](#) has been created so that you can connect with your fellow offer holders before you arrive. Please see the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/626830828262435>

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 at: [_ https://www.lse.ac.uk/Mathematics/Offer-Holders/WelcomeMScORA](https://www.lse.ac.uk/Mathematics/Offer-Holders/WelcomeMScORA), and the corresponding School website will also provide information about making preparations for your time at the LSE on the School's Welcome page: <https://welcome.lse.ac.uk/>

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](#) 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/>

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

If you have any questions, please contact: Rebecca Batey, MSc Programmes Manager, Department of Mathematics. Email: r.batey@lse.ac.uk or maths.info@lse.ac.uk

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

Kind regards,

Professor Gregory Sorkin
MSc Operations Research & Analytics Programme Director
Department of Mathematics